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Palestinian Affairs

The Hizballah-Palestine 'Umar Khalaf Group issued a statement claiming responsibility for an operation on the Israeli-Jordanian border near the Mehola settlement in the Jordan Valley on 4 August, Voice of the Oppressed reported. In Amman, a Jordanian military spokesman said Jordan had "no evidence" that the attackers had crossed into Israel from Jordan, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Israel

Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek said that he will stop signing orders authorizing the demolition of Palestinian homes until the government eases the process by which Arab residents of East Jerusalem obtain building permits, Jerusalem radio reported. Kollek called for making the procedure which Arabs undergo to obtain building permits equal to that of Jews.

Egypt

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has denied as unfounded a report which stated that a higher Egyptian-Israeli committee for bilateral cooperation in various fields has been established, MENA reported.

Lebanon

Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Nasrallah announced seven Hizballah candidates to the parliamentary elections at a news conference on 5 August, Voice of Lebanon reported.

Iran

The permanent envoy to the UN has denied that Iran intends to produce chemical weapons and ballistic missiles, IRNA reported. Kamal Kharrazi denounced as "baseless" a report by the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies alleging that unless Western nations halted the flow of technology to Iran, it would produce a nuclear bomb in five to six years.

Palestinian Affairs

Hizballah-Palestine Claims Jordanian Border Attack

NC0408164092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1606 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] In a telephone conversation with Radio Free Lebanon a few moments ago, the Hizballah-Palestine 'Umar Khalaf Group claimed responsibility for an operation along the Jordanian-Israeli border near the settlement of Mehola. The statement [as heard] said that a few days ago, Hizballah Palestine carried out another operation across the Jordanian border opposite Wadi Khalid in Palestine.

Statement Issued

NC0508062592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] The Hizballah-Palestine Military Command has issued a statement saying: Relying on God, the Martyr 'Umar Khalaf group of the Martyrdom Lovers Battalion yesterday attacked the Zionist occupation forces across the Jordanian border with occupied Palestine near the settlement of Mehola. The mujahidin surprised enemy soldiers with machine-gun fire, hand grenades, and rockets for half an hour. The mujahidin killed or wounded many occupation soldiers. The statement affirmed that three mujahidin were martyred in the confrontation.

Hizballah-Palestine pledged to the people of the occupied land and the Islamic nation to continue the armed struggle until all Palestine is liberated.

Further on Clash

NC0408194192 Paris AFP in English 1900 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Beirut, Aug 4 (AFP) - A telephone caller claiming to represent a Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist group said members of the group were involved in a shoot out with Israeli troops Tuesday along the Jordanian-Lebanon [as received] border.

Three members of the pro-Iranian Hizballah Palestine died in the shoot out, and an unspecified number of Israelis were "killed and wounded," the caller said in a statement read to AFP.

An Israeli military spokesman in Jerusalem reported earlier that three intruders died and that two Israeli troops were wounded, including one seriously, along the ceasefire line with Jordan.

Hizballah-Palestine, which is not affiliated with Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said: "Our mujahedin clashed with the enemy soldiers for half an hour with automatic weapons, grenades and anti-tank rockets, killing and wounding a large number among them."

In Amman, a Jordanian Army spokesman said Jordan had no proof that the attackers had crossed into Israel from Jordan.

Hizballah-Palestine on January 15 claimed responsibility for an attack in the West Bank against an Israeli car and bus.

This organisation, which used to call itself the Islamic Jihad Bayt-al-Maqdis, has also claimed responsibility for several anti- Israeli operations in south Lebanon, attacks in Israel proper and in Arab countries.

Red Eagles, Black Panthers Issue Communique

LD0408193192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Brothers, a few days ago, the al-Nisr al-Ahmar [Red Eagle] and al-Fahd al-Aswad [Black Panther] groups issued a communique on a heroic joint operation executed by a number of the heroes of the Intifadah against the forces of occupation.

The communique from the occupied territories says:

O giant masses of our people, O our living martyrs, out of our commitment to the revolution and in continuation of the struggle, we consolidate our commitment and draw patience from you; and with you we march toward the battlefields so that the flags of the intifadah and the rifles of its hunted revolutionaries remain raised high in loyalty to the promises of Khalid Ikir, Yusuf Abu Arab, and Mahmud al-Zar'ini.

Emphasizing our firm belief in the inevitability of victory and in the armed struggle as the sole way to liberate Palestine—all of Palestine, in revenge for our great martyrs Yusuf Abu Arab from al-Nisr al-Ahmar; Mahmud al-Zar'ini from al-Fahd al-Aswad; and all our living martyrs—and in defiance of the fascist death forces, our fighting groups from al-Nisr al-Ahmar, Martyr Yusuf Abu Arab company; and from al-Fahd al-Aswad, Martyr Mahdi Abu al-Hasan company, moved during the evening of 28 July 1992 and executed a heroic, joint, armed operation against the soldiers of terrorist Rabin.

Our Panthers and Eagles fired at the soldiers of the new nazi in 'Izz al-Din valley in Janin. This terrorized the soldiers. They fired back and used flares to comb the area. But, God be praised, we returned to our bases safely.

We promise God and the homeland to continue our revolutionary armed operations and we promise to foil all attempts to strike at the strong nucleus of the intifadah. We also swear by the blood of our martyrs that the language of dialogue with the criminal Zionist army will be only one language—the language of great rifles.

We will remain together along the road of the armed revolution until victory and liberation.

[Signed] Al-Fahd al-Aswad group; Al-Nisr al-Ahmar groups; and the triangle of Palestinian terror.

Gaza Islamic Leader on Relations With Fatah

TA0408163592 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 3 Aug 92 pp 15, 16

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, "Gaza Strip Islamic leader," by Khalid Abu-'Akir; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: How do you evaluate the general atmosphere in the Gaza Strip, in the aftermath of confrontations between Fatah [Palestine National Liberation Movement] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists?

A: The general atmosphere is calm now, despite the fact that some brawls are still breaking out, especially in the central camps. We can say, however, that these brawls haven't reached a dangerous level.

I believe that these sort of incidents don't pose a threat to the future of the relationship between the brothers in Hamas and Fatah.

Q: Can we say that there is a commitment from both sides to the agreement signed after the confrontations?

A: I can't say there's commitment, because of the breaches that occurred. But the follow-up committee formed to make sure the agreement is implemented has succeeded in putting a lid on the breaches leading to confrontations.

Q: Can these breaches, no matter how minor, affect the general atmosphere?

A: I don't believe that they will affect the agreement or the general atmosphere, God willing.

Q: How can confrontations be avoided in the future?

A: I think the leadership outside, in particular, can play an important role in such matters.

Q: What's your personal opinion on how to avoid confrontations?

A: I am certain that the Islamic movement is interested in not having any conflicts with Fatah. I'll even go further than that, to say that the conflicts are not considered to be in the Islamic movement's interests in spreading and advancing. So it does its best to prevent their occurrence.

That's why I mentioned that it's the responsibility of the Palestinian leadership outside to direct the Fatah cadres inside to not resort to bloody conflict, but to dialogue and logic when dealing with brethren.

Q: But the Palestinian leadership called for national unity from the start, and called for an end to the confrontations.

A: I hope the verbal invitation has some presence on the ground. In other words, their calls should be implemented.

I can say that calls are not enough. You must issue clear orders against creating an atmosphere of competition.

Q: The conflicts surged at a time when talk of an interim phase has increased, leading some to accuse Hamas of escalating tensions to make sure no one ignores it during the interim phase, and to affirm its strength. What's your response to such accusations?

A: My response is that the Islamic movement affirmed its strength through the votes it got in various institutional elections (in the occupied territories). Conflict is not the standard way that the movement affirms its strength.

I can say that the opposite is probably true for the national movement, or Fatah, which wants to establish this self-rule. It wants to affirm its strength and prove that it can establish this self-rule in the region.

Q: Can you explain why Hamas rejects the peace process?

A: The Islamic movement indeed rejects this current peace process, based on its belief that the militarily weak is weak in negotiations, and the militarily strong is strong in negotiations.

From the beginning of the peace process, Palestinian weakness has been embarrassingly obvious. The Shamiric conditions were imposed on the Palestinians in full: no Jerusalem representation, no diaspora representation, no PLO, no Palestinian state, no international conference.

All of Shamir's no's were accepted by the Palestinians. Meanwhile, the sole request of the Palestinian delegation—a settlement freeze—has been rejected.

Shamir repeated over and over that he would accept no preconditions. At the same time, he imposed his own preconditions on the Palestinian delegation, and even gave himself the authority to accept or reject the members of the delegation.

So the process reflects this weakness in negotiations that is the direct product of military weakness.

Based on this, we reject this process, which defined self-rule as its final outcome in Madrid.

Q: Would you accept the peace process if the bases of Palestinian participation were adjusted?

A: Without any clarity to the process, one that would lead to the achievement of the full and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, there can be no acceptance of any peace process.

Q: Can you specify what you mean by, "full rights?"

A: I believe it's the right of the Palestinian people to reject the establishment of a state on its land... Full rights means that a foreign country not be allowed on its land.

Q: The next bilateral negotiations will concentrate on the interim phase. Can we assume Hamas will oppose these negotiations?

A: I believe Hamas will not accept self-rule, and will oppose it. But it will not use violence against any party that walks down the path of self-rule.

It will say its opinion and advise the nation in a clear way, and will ask others to respect any party's right to say its opinion in a democratic way, without resorting to violence.

Q: And how will Hamas deliver its positions to the masses? Will it be content with leaflets to confirm its opposition?

A: With various media, mosque pulpits, conferences, newspapers, leaflets.

Q: The gap between the supporters and opponents of the peace process might widen when the negotiations on the interim phase begin.

A: In any democratic state, there are wide gaps between the opposition and the trend that has control, and there's nothing wrong with that.

Q: But every side will try to deliver its message by all means possible, and this could lead to confrontations. Do you see the coming phase as a phase of confrontation?

A: If we agree on freedom of expression without violence, why should there be confrontations? I don't predict any confrontations, unless one of the two sides wants to start a confrontation.

Q: Is Hamas interested in starting a confrontation?

A: Absolutely not. It will lose in confrontation.

Q: Did the latest confrontations affect the popular surge of Hamas?

A: Of course. That's why the Islamic movement avoids confrontations as much as possible. This is a principal and policy for the movement.

Q: What is your position on the administrative or legislative elections for the interim phase?

A: In my opinion, as long as the foundation—self-rule—is rejected, then the elections that will lead to this self-rule are rejected.

Q: What if they are legislative elections?

A: We will discuss this issue when the time comes.

Q: There is talk that you would participate.

A: If the goal of the elections is self-rule, I think they will be rejected.

Q: Are there any special conditions that would guarantee your participation in the elections?

A: We always participate in institutional elections. If a Palestinian parliament was going to be formed through elections, I would think it possible to participate in them. But elections for an idea that is rejected in the first place cannot be entered.

Q: If you are dragged into self-rule, will you announce a boycott and allow the supporters of the peace process to participate?

A: We cannot be dragged into something which is prohibited by the religion. This is a matter of principal. We will be satisfied with being the opposition.

Q: So you are willing to participate in any elections except self-rule elections?

A: Our conditions for participation in any elections are that they not be limited to anything specific. In other words, if there were elections today for a Palestinian national council that would decide on continuing in the peace process, we would participate in it, as long as it comprises all of the Palestinian people, inside the occupied territories and out. The point is, the issue is not just one of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Q: Wouldn't distancing yourself from the scene by not participating in the elections, especially in the interim phase, move Hamas to the margins.

A: I believe that the Islamic movement will be marginalized if self-rule is established. I have no doubts about that. It will happen, and the number of supporters of the national trend that followed the path of self-rule will increase.

But this will all be temporary. Afterwards, the people will discover the dangers that they fell into, and then the scales will tip.

For example, if (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn had entered any elections when he was shooting out Scud missiles, he would have got 99.9 percent of the votes of the Palestinian people. Now, he couldn't even get 5 percent. These sort of variables change in less than a year.

Perhaps many things are hidden now, so the Palestinian people don't realize what cliff they're jumping off. The truth will be exposed, even if after some time.

Q: How would you view relations with the PLO?

A: The PLO is not a solid object. It is people, and they are our brethren, sons, fathers, and mothers. We regard them as people who love the Palestinian people, wherever they are, and we respect their views and hope that they respect ours.

Q: What about the attempts to bring Hamas under the PLO umbrella?

A: God says, in the Holy Qur'an, "And do not ridicule people's wares." If everyone recognizes Hamas' importance, and it is given the appropriate representation in Palestinian institutions, I don't think we will oppose, as

long as the PLO respects the principles of Islamic law (Sharia) in the Palestine Covenant.

Q: What is this appropriate representation?

A: Its size should be delineated by the percentage of votes it has received in the institutional elections it has contended. I believe that, if we take the average number of votes it gets in the various institutional elections it has contended in the West Bank and Gaza, the representation will be more than 45 percent.

Q: But if it represents 45 percent, it can be considered a competitor of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A: That's what the PLO thinks.

Q: What does Hamas think?

A: Hamas doesn't think about anything but enlightening people. It does not think about being anyone's competitor or anyone's replacement.

Sinyurah Sees 'Grim Picture' for Peace Process

TA0408143892 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 3 Aug 92 p 4

[By editor-in-chief Hannah Sinyurah]

[Text] In an astonishingly assertive fashion, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, after his latest round of shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East, invited all the parties involved in the bilateral Arab-Israel peace talks to meet again in Washington, D.C., by August 10 for another round of talks. The change of venue from Rome to Washington, Mr. Baker explained, was due to the Italian government's reluctance to host the talks before September because the month of August is considered a vacation month in Italy.

The Arab parties, including the Palestinians, have expressed their willingness to participate. Israel questioned the date, but not the venue, of the coming meeting.

The invitations come despite a grim picture for the future of the peace process. The peace process is hurting even though developments in Israel have been relatively positive following the ouster of the right-wing Likud Party and ascension to power of the central Labor Party, backed by the left-of-center Meretz.

A beleaguered Bush Administration, with its star actor Secretary of State James Baker, is pulling out all the stops to boost a faltering Republican presidential campaign. They have tantalized the new Labor government with the promise of $10 billion in bank loan guarantees, hoping to rectify relations with—and influence the voting trends of—the American Jewish community before the November elections.

Yitzhaq Rabin's Labor government, meanwhile, is going to reap even more than the promised billions. It is improving its international image. Yet, the truth is that Rabin has conceded nothing in concrete terms that wasn't already offered by the previous Shamir government. Settlement activity continues unabated in Jerusalem, and the subject of Jerusalem is still barred entry onto the agenda of the talks. Human rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention are still trodden upon, and the Iron Fist policy continues in the Occupied Territories.

Rabin wants talks on the Syrian Golan Heights shelved to the end of the negotiations. He has set his sight no further than a limited autonomy for the Palestinians, and his main efforts will go to the Israeli economy, education, absorption and the '96 election so that the next generation of Laborites will lead Israel into the 21st century.

The Palestinian delegation is trapped into staying in the game, in spite of their feeling that the present conditions only encourage divisions along factional lines inside Palestine, encourage a split between those inside the Occupied Territories and those outside, marginalize the PLO and create an alternative leadership.

When the bilateral talks resume, be it in Washington or Rome, the Palestinian agenda will be an examination of Rabin's counter-proposal to the Palestinian Interim Self Government Arrangements (PISGA), submitted in an earlier round of talks in Washington, and a response to proposed elections in the Occupied Territories.

High on the agenda will be the same issues that confronted the two sides during the Shamir government: a freeze on settlements, human rights conditions, return of deportees, and the 25 Confidence Building Measures asked from the Israeli side.

Progress in the talks must be parallel on all fronts, especially with Syria on the future of the Golan Heights. Postponing serious discussion on the issue of the Golan will paralyze the whole process.

In Damascus, the Arab parties to the peace talks agreed to work according to a strategy of comprehensive settlement, not separate bilateral treaties. Recently, a confidant of Rabin signalled that it is possible to expect a limited Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, to return both the Syrian villages and their populations to the jurisdiction of Syria. This would allow for progress toward an interim settlement with the Palestinians without Arab objection.

Rabin recently told Israeli settlers in the Golan that the withdrawal from al-Qunaytirah led to 17 years of security and peaceful borders with Syria. A withdrawal from a few more square kilometers would give Israel more years of peaceful borders on the Syrian front. Let's see if he meant it.

Basically, the problem with the future is that a Bush return to the White House in November is in doubt. James Baker, the driving force behind the peace talks, may have to opt out of this and future rounds because he is needed to help re-elect Bush. The different agendas and strategies of the various parties to the talks seriously contradict one another. Western Europe has been kept out of the process and there

are no indications that it will force itself onto the scene. Russia is internally preoccupied. And despite changes in the Israeli scene, the prospects for the peace process remains dismal and in doubt.

Al-Husayni Urges Cancellation of Deportations

JN0108091792 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Aug 92 p 32

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian Advisory Council, has called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to cancel the deportation order on 11 Palestinian citizens, seven from the Gaza Strip and four from the West Bank.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y during his stay in Amman, Faysal al-Husayni said that the decision to cancel or confirm the deportation order Rabin will make tomorrow, Sunday, when he meets with representatives from the Israeli military prosecutor's office in his capacity as war minister will be a test that will show whether the Rabin government wants peace or not. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi on Upcoming Negotiations, Police Force

TA0408182992 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 4 Aug 92 p 2

[Report by Samir 'Izzat Ghayth]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—A closed meeting, lasting some three hours, was held last evening in the National Hotel's conference room by members of the Palestinian negotiating team. [passage omitted]

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the delegation's media spokeswoman, said later that the meeting was aimed at following up, coordinating, and preparing for the upcoming negotiations.

On PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's proposal to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the seriousness of this proposal, Dr. 'Ashrawi said that president 'Arafat announced his readiness to meet with Rabin and affirmed his commitment to a political solution, but Israel is placing obstacles on this path.

On whether there is a specific timetable for the bilateral and multilateral talks, Dr. 'Ashrawi said that the upcoming round of bilateral negotiations will continue for a whole month and will be resumed as the need arises so that an agreement can be reached. As for the multilateral talks, they will be held at different times in September, October, and November in accordance with the working groups' decision.

On the rumor in the Palestinian street that there is "a U.S. concoction" and that whatever America wants will be carried out whether the negotiations continue or are halted, Dr. 'Ashrawi said that this is not true. There are different positions in the negotiations as well as clear Palestinian demands and rights, which we translate in practice into a negotiating mechanism. There are also Israeli positions, which mostly contradict our own positions. The claim that there is a U.S. concoction is totally inconsistent with reality.

Dr. 'Ashrawi added that she considers the current phase to be difficult, delicate, and critical, noting that as people who possess inalienable rights and positions, we have to deal with this phase in an intelligent, comprehensive, and precise way.

On news media reports about a plan to set up a Palestinian police force, 'Ashrawi said that one should not exaggerate or create unrealistic expectations.

She explained that the technical committees are making preparations for the negotiations over the transitional stage, but under no circumstances does this mean that practical steps are being adopted. What is taking place is part of the comprehensive preparations for the negotiations. The news media in general, and the Israeli media in particular, blew this issue out of proportion and created some confusion on the Palestinian street. One should not expect quick achievements or magical changes over a short period. [passage omitted]

Talks With Jordan on Police Denied

TA0408164892 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 4 Aug 92 pp 1, 11

[Report by Khalid Abu-'Akir]

[Text] Dr. Sari Nusaybah, head of the technical teams of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, affirmed that the delegation did not hold any consultations in the Jordanian capital on training Palestinian policemen.

He said: "No consultations are being held about training policemen for the transitional stage. Only ideas for the future are being formulated." He added that some members of the security and police committee are reviewing their ideas over this apparatus just as members of other teams are doing.

Nusaybah ridiculed reports about the training of 20,000 to 30,000 policemen, and said: "The studies have not been concluded yet, and it is impractical to talk about figures at this moment. The reports that will be presented will be studied and crystallized."

It is worth noting that the technical teams, comprising 36 committees, were formed at the beginning of the peace process. The committees have been working for five months to formulate their concepts as part of the continuing preparations for the negotiating process. Nusaybah noted that "they are exploratory committees for formulating concepts and not for taking over any authority."

Nusaybah, who returned yesterday from Amman following a one-week visit, explained that the delegation accompanying him, all of whom were members of the

Palestinian negotiating team, "held contacts with Palestinian parties over the negotiations and the peace process, which are part of the ongoing contacts held since the beginning of this process."

Nusaybah was amazed by the recent uproar over the technical committees, particularly the security and police committee. He pointed out that the committees have been operating for some time "as part of the continuing preparations for the negotiating process." He asked: "Why was this uproar not raised a month or two ago when there were a great deal of preparations, studies, and consultations?" He added that the visits of the team members are not something new. There have been continuous visits whether to Jordan or to other countries with the aim of utilizing their expertise and learning from their experience in various fields so that each team would formulate its concepts.

It is noteworthy that some members of the technical teams were appointed several months ago as members of the negotiating delegation to the bilateral and multilateral talks.

'Arafat Receives Cable From Iraq's Saddam

JN3107175392 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1604 GMT 31 Jul 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday received a thank-you cable from his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in reply to a cable of congratulations he sent to the latter on the occasion of Iraq's national day.

In his cable, the Iraqi president says: It pleases us to seize this opportunity to reaffirm our persistent concern for supporting and backing the fraternal Palestinian Arab people in their just struggle and victorious intifadah under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, to enable them to achieve their legitimate national objectives of ending the Zionist occupation of their lands and holy shrines and establishing an independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

We wish you and other brothers within the PLO continued good health and happiness, the Palestinian Arab people further steadfastness and immunity, and our Arab nation additional pride and success.

Commentary Views U.S. Confrontation With Iraq

LD0408220692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, following the confrontation which flared up between Iraq and the UN inspection teams on the issue of inspecting the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, in search for information and evidence on the Iraqi military capabilities, and despite the arrival, eventually, at a settlement of this question, the United States took the initiative of dispatching Patriot missile batteries to Kuwait, in addition to U.S. forces estimated at about 2,400 troops to conduct [word indistinct] maneuvers.

The dispatch of U.S. missiles and forces to Kuwait comes at a time so as to coincide with the second anniversary of its invasion by Iraq. The confrontation which occurred over the inspection of the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture was not the first between Iraq and the inspection teams, nor were the repeated confrontations specifically confined to Iraq and the UN. Rather, they, as a matter of fact, occurred between Iraq and the Western states, the main ones in the the coalition [against Iraq], headed by the United States. Moreover, since these Western states: the United States, Britain, and France, in particular, control the policies and the movements of the UN Security Council, the confrontations seemed to be between Iraq and the world, represented by the United Nations, while they were confrontations in which these Western states used the UN as a shield to pass their policies on Iraq.

And, as the date of the U.S. presidential elections approaches along with the intensification of the election campaign, in which so far the Democrat candidate Clinton is ahead of President Bush, confrontations with Iraq have begun for Bush, who is striving for a second presidential term, and the present U.S. Administration, to assume a clear political character. The Desert Storm campaign, which brought millions of troops to the Arab Gulf region and gathered in the region military mobilization and equipment greater than that of World War II, and in which a destructive war was waged against Iraq and the Iraqi people, was fought, conducted on the basis of restoring democracy in Kuwait and to save Iraq from the rule of a despotic regime represented in the person of the Iraqi president.

The war of Desert Storm ended with the destruction of Iraq and the starvation of the Iraqi people through a continuous economic blockade, but without achieving

the two originally declared aims. On the contrary, the U.S. discovered facts about Kuwait that were not known to them and the ruling regime in Iraq remained despite all attempts to destabilize it and bring it down.

The issue of inspecting the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture provided the U.S. Administration with a new opportunity to flex its muscles in an attempt to deflect the attention of the U.S. elector away from focusing on domestic affairs and to reopening the Iraqi file. The fresh maneuvers which the U.S. forces will conduct in Kuwait under the name Intrinsic Action come as a naked attempt from the U.S. Administration to exploit this file a second time in a political fashion.

But this administration must realize that to continue digging into this file is a double-edged sword—it might break its back instead of strengthening its domestic position. To continue waving the threat of the use of force without the ability to use it, or use it effectively, with time, undermines the credibility of the one who relies on this. As the hostages crisis in Iran was the main reason for Carter's loss of a second presidential term, the crisis of Iraq could lead to the same outcome for President Bush.

Algeria

Fundamentalist Leader Arrested; 'May be Dead'

NC0308202592 Paris AFP in English 1945 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Exerpt] Algiers, Aug 3 (AFP) - Mansouri Meliani, head of an armed Islamic fundamentalist opposition movement, has been arrested and may be dead, an Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) bulletin reported. The bulletin Mihrab el-Djoumoua was passed to AFP Monday.

The Algerian national news agency APS had said that Meliani was seriously wounded and arrested one week previously at el-Achour, near Algiers, in a battle with security forces.

Police refused to confirm the arrest of Meliani, but denied another report that the principal leader of the Islamic armed forces, Abdelkader Chebouti, had been arrested.

Meanwhile the armed Islamic El Bakoun Al-Ahd group said in a statement to AFP Monday that it remained "at full strength" after police announced the dismantling of several armed groups in the last few days.

According to press reports, Meliani is a leader of this same group. "El Bakoun Al-Ahd remains active and at full strength in the principal wilayas (departments) of the territory," the statement said. [passage ommitted]

Gendarmes Report Killing Member of 'Armed Gang'

LD0408080792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Men of the National Gendarmerie killed one member of the armed gang which had been sought in the Djemila area. This happened after the Gendarmerie put up a security road block along Highway Five which links the town of el-Eulma with Setif. A National Gendarmerie source said that the dead man called Nasib Mohamed assaulted a SONATRACH worker who was delivering invoices in a quarter of the town of el-Eulma brandishing his automatic weapon. Afterward he fled in the direction of the town of Setif. The National Gendarmerie command explained that only four members of this armed gang remain free. There is not a single soldier among them despite what some newspapers have been saying.

Setif Governor Appointed to Interior Ministry

LD0408135192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Excerpt] The province of Setif has been officially without a governor since yesterday after the appointment of its governor as a secretary general at the Interior Ministry. The same thing happened in the province of Oran after the appointment of the province's governor as the director of the office of the Interior Ministry. [Passage omitted]

Maghreb Consultative Council Delegates Chosen

LD0208101392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0600 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] The members of the National Consultative Council have finally designated 20 members among them to represent Algeria in the Maghreb Consultative Council, according to a source from the National Consultative Council quoted by APS. The members of the National Consultative Council, add the same source, have designated their colleagues following a wide consultation. The 20 elected representatives then elected Dr. Said Bouchaib as president of the delegation. Note that the seats of the Algerian parliamentarian delegation at the Maghreb Consultative Council have remained vacant since the dissolution of the National Assembly last January.

Kasdi Merbah on 'Group of Seven' Discussions

LD0308150892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] The group of seven has been meeting since yesterday at the level of the leaders of the seven parties at the headquarters of the Party for Justice and Development [MAJD] to discuss the adoption of a joint structure. Here is [MAJD leader and a former prime minister] Kasdi Merbah who talks to radio correspondent Jahidah Khelfaoui about the preliminary results of this meeting:

[Merbah] The meeting was long. In the first part we talked about developments in the situation; we also analyzed the present situation of the country, especially after the assassination of President Boudiaf, may God rest his soul, the change in the Higher State Council, and also the change in the government, and the press conference in which the prime minister gave the main outlines of his government's program.

After analyzing the situation, we started debate on how to organize the dialogue and national reconciliation and what the concept of national reconciliation is within the group. It appeared to us that it is necessary in the period through which the country is passing that the group of seven should come up with tangible proposals to enable or facilitate this dialogue or national reconciliation.

We also talked about centers of the dialogue; for example the arrangements for the new transitional period; date of elections, and how they will be organized; the laws which should be changed. The important thing is that the meeting was long. We talked about all the matters that concern the country. We decided yesterday that we remain in continuous session because we have not finished the work and we will come up with proposals and results at the beginning of next week, God willing.

Reggane Detention Center Said Closed Down

LD0408180392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] It was learned today from confirmed sources that the security center in Reggane has been completely closed down. The center was opened last February. Approximately 2,400 persons have been released out of the 3,400 who were there.

Therefore, Reggane center becomes the second center to be completely closed down after the El Homeur center which was closed down last July. The source added that Adrar province still has two centers which contain 650 detainees.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Arrives in Algiers

LD0308142892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas arrived this morning in our country carrying an invitation from Indonesian President Suharto to Higher State Council President Ali Kafi to take part in the Nonaligned Summit which is scheduled in September in Jakarta.

Our reporter Rachid Benhamamil at the presidency told us a while ago that Mr Ali Kafi received Ali Alatas and the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi.

Egypt

Report of Egyptian-Israeli Committee Denied

NC0408161292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1531 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Al-Mansurah, 4 Aug (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has denied a report published today by the Egyptian opposition newspaper AL-SHA'B to the effect that a higher Egyptian-Israeli committee for bilateral cooperation in various fields has been established.

The report is unfounded and fabricated chapter and verse, Dr. Sidqi asserted.

Minister Says 'Majority' of 'Extremists' Arrested

NC0408162092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Al-Mansurah, 4 Aug (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa expects the extremists' crimes to decrease in the coming period, especially considering the recent amendments to the Egyptian penal code on combating terrorism. Implementation of the new law began the day it was published.

Musa said the majority of those involved in the recent violence in Dayrut and Qina of Upper Egypt and in Dumyat have been arrested.

The interior minister, speaking to journalists today during Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi's tour of al-Daqahliyah Governorate, appealed to Egypt's youth to fear God and protect themselves and their country, stressing that Egypt is "the land of Islam."

Dayrut Renews Detention of 'Extremists'

NC0408152492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1451 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, 4 Aug (MENA)—The prosecution of Dayrut, Asyut Governorate, has decided to renew the detention of 30 extremists accused of vandalizing and damaging homes and shops in the villages of Sanabu and Manshiyat Nasir in Dayrut.

Security services had arrested several leaders of extremist organizations in the wake of the recent violence in Dayrut and neighboring villages. A number of innocent civilians and policemen have fallen victim to the violence.

Writer Fears Foreign Attempts To Control Economy

NC0508092292 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 3 Aug 92 p 11

['Abdallah Imam commentary: Ember-Holding Companies]

[Text] They have tried to convince us that the state can no longer endure public sector losses; that it can no longer waste its efforts on management; that it can no longer take care of factories; that the market economy now rules supreme worldwide; and that the only solution is to set up holding companies that own, manage, make profit, and spare the government all the funds it is losing in the public sector—a sector initiated and developed primarily by foreign and Egyptian capital.

The perceived objective was to preserve the institutions that render special services to the masses, especially those that made enormous profits better added to the state budget than some people's pockets.

We were surprised to see the profitable commercial buildings being offered for sale and that the buyers are foreigners; a French company offered to buy a big store and Egyptian expatriates—probably fronting foreigners—offered to buy another chain of stores.

These stores were owned by foreigners. It took Egypt a fierce war involving three countries to take control of those stores. This war's primary result was to Egyptianize foreign capital and make it national capital contributing to development and social justice.

If the World Bank sentence is irrevocable and the public sector is already being liquidated, all we can ask is that productive Egyptians alone own the public sector and keep our eyes open to attempts to control or infiltrate the national economy.

It might be worthwhile publishing a list of foreign capital investments in Egypt, showing their size, the projects they undertook, and their benefits to the Egyptian economy.

We lived the fantasy of foreign capital in the early 1950's; we gave it all the guarantees, temptations, exemptions, protective measures, and every encouragement. The result was that all its investments totaled half a million Egyptian pounds.

We hope history will not repeat itself. The development of any country should primarily be the responsibility of its loyal sons. We hope these holding companies will remain ember-holding companies by preserving the nationalist and social role of our economy. [Borrowing from Prophet Muhammad's words that good Muslims, as if they are holding hot embers, [Qabidah 'Ala al-Jamr] should struggle against all odds, the author gives his interpretation and uses it to play on the term holding companies]

'Saboteur Organization,' Sudanese 'Hints' Viewed

NC0508080692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2204 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—In an editorial in its Wednesday issue, AL-AHRAM describes as astounding and regrettable the revelations made following the arrest of leaders of extremist groups calling themselves the consultative council [majlis al-shura]. Remarking that these leaders included a Jordanian and a Sudanese national, the paper says this indicates that these groups are part of a regional saboteur organization that was planning terrorist operations, assassinations of public figures, and attacks on the national economy.

The paper adds that this proves these groups' operations are not targeted against individuals because of "differences of opinion," nor are they directed against a society they consider infidel for supposed religious reasons. The major objective is to ruin the homeland and demolish its props for political motives.

The paper says it is really ironic that these butchers, whose acts place them on a par with the most vicious criminals, should misappropriate the name of one of pure Islam's greatest instruments—Islam upholds the values of amity, tolerance, and brotherhood before God—namely "the consultative council," one of the world's earliest forms of democracy, and transform it into a tool of conspiracy, murder, and every form of banned sin against their coreligionists and visiting foreigners. The paper says they are doing this on the pretext that they are consulting with each other for the good of Islam and Muslims.

On another issue, AL-AHRAM says that Sudan's recent hints about resorting to methods other than negotiations to resolve the dispute over the Hala'ib triangle, which Sudan claims, but which is Egyptian territory, and Sudan's support for Egyptian terrorist groups, further complicate already shaky inter-Arab cooperation.

Commenting, the paper says this is happening when the Arab world is facing serious and escalating campaigns and numerous conspiracies at the hands of neighboring countries, particularly Turkey and Israel, conspiracies that are designed to undermine the stability and security of the entire Arab world.

The paper adds: The problem's core lies in the Sudanese ruling regime's miscalculations, which could have serious consequences for the helpless Sudanese people.

It notes that the Sudanese regime has upset the country's relations with Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, and many other Arab countries.

Concluding, the paper asks: In whose interest is the Sudanese regime doing all this? In whose interest is it hinting at the use of force against Egypt, senselessly disregarding the nature of Egyptian-Sudanese relations and their role in pan-Arab security.

Sudan

Official on Hala'ib, Relations With Tunisia

EA0308204292 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Professor Ali Muhammad 'Uthman Yasin, principal secretary of the Foreign Ministry, has said he is confident that the Sudanese and Egyptian sides do not want an escalation of friction regarding the border situation between them. In a statement to the radio correspondent, the secretary said that the Hala'ib problem was a purely legal one and would have to be solved within that framework. He dismissed the possibility of resorting to nonpeaceful means to solve the problem. Prof. Yasin said the tension affecting relations between the two countries at present was artificial and unjustified and based only on allegations and statements coming from here and there. He expressed hope that the two sides would meet soon with [word indistinct] hearts and minds in order to resume talks on border between the two countries.

Turning to Tunisian-Sudanese relations, the principal secretary of the Foreign Ministry said Sudan had been greatly affected by the accusations of the Tunisian authorities of being behind terrorism and conspiracies against the regime. He said that the Sudanese have stressed repeatedly that the allegations are not true. He said that after promising to send back its ambassador to Khartoum, Tunisia did not do so but persisted in its hostility towards Sudan and also started mistreating Sudanese working in Tunisia. He said that for all these reasons Sudan was considering transferring its embassy in the Tunisian capital to another venue where relations could be more congenial and where joint interests could be better attended to.

Al-Bashir Meets Palestine Jihad Movement Leader

EA0408121592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1653 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Aug (SUNA)—The chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, received in his office at the Republican Palace here Monday Shaykh Asad al-Tamimi, the Amir of Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine.

Meanwhile, Tamimi congratulated Gen al-Bashir on the victories scored by the Armed Forces and People's Defence Forces at the operation zones in the south.

In a press statement, Tamimi pointed to the national salvation revolution's efforts in realising self-reliance and implementing Islamic shari'ah, saying that previous regimes in Sudan did not give their real loyalty to God, a matter which resulted in a complete failure and a misplanning in many spheres. He explained that the Sudan is possessing great capabilities which enable it to be the solid core of the Islamic state in the coming period. On the other hand, Tamimi said that the role required from Palestinians to bring back their country is by orientation to God and [the] declaration of jihad.

Al-Bashir Terms Iraqi Ties 'Good, Special'

JN0408105192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has hailed the historic leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

In exclusive statements to a correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in Khartoum, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir expressed pride in the Iraqi people's steadfastness. He also praised their heroic confrontation of the treacherous 30-state aggression. He pointed out that the Iraqi people have set an example for the ability to accomplish and work hard.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir expressed the hope that the Iraqi people will cope with the current circumstances created by the aggression and become stronger than ever before. He termed Iraqi-Sudanese ties as good and special. He noted that Sudan had been met with immense understanding and a willingness to provide assistance from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, especially with regard to the security threats posed to Sudan and the conspiracies hatched against it.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir added that Iraq and Sudan maintain ties that could set an example for inter-Arab relations. He spoke of the current Arab state of affairs, indicating that the state of weakness and disarray currently plaguing the Arab nation is a precedent, because it was not experienced before, even when the Arabs were under colonial rule. Then, no Arab ruler dared to assist in the mobilization of a foreign power to strike at an Arab people, he maintained.

Concluding his statements, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir expressed the hope that Arab solidarity will be revived so that we can face up to all the dangers threatening the Arab nation.

Bahrain

Reportage on Visit of Russian Envoy Makharadze

Prime Minister, Envoy Discuss Ties

JN0408153992 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Manama, 4 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Prime Minister Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah this morning received Valeriy Makharadze, deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, who came to greet his highness.

During the meeting, the officials exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues in light of new trends and policies pursued by the Russian Federation to promote cooperation with other countries.

His highness the prime minister stressed that Bahrain welcomes the Russian deputy prime minister and his delegation to discuss ways of promoting political and economic cooperation. [passage omitted]

For his part, the Russian deputy prime minister stressed that his country, which is pursuing a new foreign policy, is eager to promote its relations with all countries, especially the Arabian Gulf states. He pointed out that his meetings with the Bahraini delegation afforded a good opportunity for consideration of two draft agreements on economic and trade cooperation, as well as strategies for protecting investments. [passage omitted]

Official Talks Held With Delegation

JN0408154792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Manama, 4 Aug (WAKH)—An official round of talks was held in Manama this morning between a Bahraini delegation, headed by Transportation and Communication Minister Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan Humaydan, and a delegation from the Russian Federation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Makharadze.

At the beginning of the talks, the Bahraini minister of transportation and communication delivered a speech in which he welcomed the Russian deputy prime minister and his delegation, stressing that the State of Bahrain wants to promote its relations with the Russian Federation. He also expressed hope that these meetings will contribute toward strengthening cooperation and relations between the two countries.

Makharadze then delivered a speech in which he voiced his thanks and appreciation for the hospitality he was accorded, and affirmed that his country is seeking to bolster relations with Bahrain, as it is very important, pointing out that Bahrain has taken steps toward promoting bilateral relations.

Following their meeting, the Bahraini minister of transportation and communication said that discussions had focused on cooperation in banking and labor areas, as well as participation in some specialized exhibitions and the implementation of joint projects.

The Bahraini minister added that the Russian side proposed a draft agreement on trade and technical cooperation, and said that both sides stressed their desire to cooperate in oil and trade areas in the interest of both countries.

The talks were attended by a number of senior officials from several ministries and the Russian ambassador in Bahrain.

Amir Receives Message From Yeltsin

JN0408170192 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Manama, Aug 4 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has received a verbal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin dealing with bilateral relations and means of promoting them in various grounds.

The message was delivered by the Russian Deputy Premier Valeriy Makharadze during his reception by his highness the amir here this morning.

Present were the Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the Transport Minister Ibrahim Hasan Humaydan and the Russian Ambassador Anatoliy Gavrynchenko.

Makharadze, Delegation Depart

JN0408155592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Excerpt] Manama, 4 Aug (WAKH)—Valeriy Makharadze, deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, and his accompanying delegation left Manama this afternoon after a two-day visit to Bahrain. During his visit, the Russian dignitary held talks with Bahraini officials on ways of promoting bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Heir Apparent Addresses National Council

LD0408164492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1353 GMT 4 Aug 92

["Text" of address to National Council by Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Prime Minister and heir apparent, on 4 August]

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 4 August, KUNA—Brothers, the speaker and members of the honorable National Council. God's peace and mercy and blessings be with you.

Blessed greetings. At the conclusion of the second session of your honorable Council, I take pleasure in conveying to you the greetings and appreciation of the amir of the

land, may God preserve him, for your work in shouldering your responsibilities under hard conditions and extremely severe circumstances.

If the treacherous Iraqi invasion, which came a short while after the start of the your Council's first session, prevented it from performing its desired task, your Council's second session which began in July 1991 has abounded with great achievements in dealing with the various issues and problems that faced the march of the homeland after its liberation from the evil of the treacherous occupation. [passage omitted]

The government's response to many of your Council's recommendations and proposals has provided a good example of cooperation and desire to work together for the good of the homeland and for meeting the needs of the citizens. [passage omitted]

While the government has made great achievements in record time, which have won the admiration of the world, it is fully aware that these achievements would not have been gained but for God's blessing and his granting us of success and your honorable Council's cooperation and the Kuwaiti people's determination [words indistinct].

Now, brothers, we look forward to the elections of your new National Council next October, God willing, feeling confident that true cooperation between the constitutional authorities and the performance of their role in the service of the homeland in unity and cohesion will, with God's help, realize the hopes and aspirations of the citizens and strengthen our efforts in protecting the state from all dangers in a manner that will insure security and stability for our dear homeland and bolster the march of our proud people toward further progress, welfare, and prosperity in various fields.

Brother members of the Council, working with you has been a model of constructive cooperation among the sons of the homeland and an embodiment of the principle of the single family under the auspices of which Kuwait has been living and will continue to live in security and stability, and by which everyone will work in unity for the progress and prosperity of the homeland and for its prestige and esteem, so that it may occupy its distinguished position among states and keep its banner flying high in the international community. [passage omitted]

Brothers, members of the National Council, at the end of my speech to you, I should like to address my brother citizens, the members of my greater family, the people of Kuwait as a whole; men, women, old, young; I should like to address them and say that democracy, consultation, freedom, and popular participation are firmly established principles in the history of our society, which take their origin from the conscience of our people throughout its history, one generation after another, and have always been implemented in various forms and shapes in a manner in harmony with our heritage, traditions, the nature of our society, and the circumstances through which Kuwait has passed over the years. There is no going back on these basic principles, pure values, and firm practices; we have adhered to them and to firmly establishing them. However, what is the value of democracy if we lose the land? What is the value of freedom if the homeland is lost? And what is the value of consultation and participation if the country is occupied? Moreover, what is the value of life itself without Kuwait as a homeland? Brothers, freedom and democracy will be worthless and we will have no pride or dignity without Kuwait—as a homeland—as a free, independent and fully sovereign state. [passage omitted]

The sinful enemy is still there; he has not abandoned his evil intentions, expansionist ambitions and hateful schemes; treachery is inherent in his nature and evil is firmly rooted in him, while he is regaining his strength and massing his troops. He insists on obstructing the implementation of the UN resolutions, and refuses to comply to the will of the international community. We must all stand together in united ranks to confront him as a tightly packed structure. [passage omitted]

Amir, Prime Minister Receive Libyan Envoy

LD0408164792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1417 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Aug—Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League and envoy of the Libyan president, met here today with Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister. Al-Turayki, who arrived on 3 August, was received earlier today by the Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. He delivered a message from Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Qatar

Daily Urges Iraq To Cease Claiming Kuwait

JN0408171892 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Excerpt] Manama, Aug 4 (GNA)—Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH has urged Iraq to quit adventurism and cease claiming that Kuwait is part of its territory.

In its today's editorial AL-RAYAH said Arabs were eager to surpass their differences and to mend cracks caused Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, but the Iraqi regime still wanted split to prevail.

AL-RAYAH said by continuing to claim that Kuwait was still part of its territory Iraq committed the same mistake when it send its troops to invade its neighbouring country.

However, the international community would never allow the Iraqi regime continue its aggressive policy and the U.S. warning to Baghdad is the last chance for Iraqi

regime to consider its policies and keep within the dimension which it should move, said AL-RAYAH. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Palestinian Delegation Leader Thanks King Fahd

LD0108201392 Riyadh SPA in English 1250 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Riyadh, Aug. 1, SPA—The head of the Palestinian team of the joint Palestinian/Jordanian delegation for the Middle East peace talks, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has lauded the efforts being made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to support the peace process in the region.

He said the kingdom has a very important role due to its outstanding and respected Arab, Islamic and international place and its tremendous political and economic weight.

Dr. 'Abd al-Shafi, who made these remarks in a press statement on Saturday, thanked King Fahd for his recent initiative over the renovation of the mosques of the holy city of al-Quds [Jerusalem] and said the kind gesture was not a surprise for any one as the Saudi monarch is well-known for his constant and faithful efforts to serve the Palestinian question and Islamic sanctuaries.

King Fahd Receives Afghan First Vice President

LD0408210992 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques received Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, Afghan first vice president and chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council in Afghanistan [name and title as heard], today at the Royal Court in the Bayan Palace. The meeting was attended by their highnesses the princes.

Paper on Motives Behind U.S. Maneuvers in Gulf

JN0408101092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that by its current military maneuvers in the Arabian Gulf, Washington aims to keep the Kuwaiti rulers hostage to delusions and nurse their feelings regarding the "security shield" they enjoy, as is claimed by the White House.

AL-THAWRAH, which reflects the views of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, affirms in its "Standpoint" column today that the price for this has always been further blackmail and theft and more protection treaties as well.

The paper notes that the United States' allies have failed to make any material gains worth noting in the aftermath of the 16 January 1991 aggression. Washington, the paper adds, wants to forestall any Western plan for obtaining a share of the booty, and also to consummate the unilateral U.S. control of the region's oil resources.

To corroborate its views in this regard, AL-THAWRAH cites the overall statements made by U.S. officials with the aim of intimidating and frightening Kuwaiti rulers as well as the timid statements made by these rulers prior to and after the arrival of the U.S. troops taking part in these maneuvers.

AL-THAWRAH says that the U.S. statements show how far the Americans are willing to go in insulting the intelligence of their agents. With regard to the statements made by these agents, the paper adds, they show the grand delusions they have been nursing regarding the alleged permanence of the U.S. security shield.

The paper ridicules the deception and delusion these rulers have chosen to accept, saying: The United States dispatched its troops to the region and wagered on its position for the sake of oil, and not for the sake of these rulers. When oil resources in the region are depleted or become of lesser value, fleets, battleships, and troops will depart and leave the agents in Kuwait and elsewhere to meet their own fate, which is known to all.

UN 'Once Again' Informed of Airspace Violations

JN0208114592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0711 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] New York, 2 Aug (INA)—Iraq has once again informed the United Nations of the continued violation of its airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

In a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general yesterday, Iraq's permanent UN representative that during 23-30 July, these violations totalled 142 air sorties.

He added that U.S. aircraft focused their activity over Zakho, Dahuk, Mosul, Irbil, al-'Amadiyah, 'Ayn Zalah, Tall 'Afar, Dukan, and Sinjar, noting that they flew at various speeds and altitudes.

Greek Parliamentary Delegation Meets Officials

JN0408171692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1433 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—Dr. Ahmad al-Nu'aymi, head of the National Assembly's Arab and International Relations Committee, today met with a Greek parliamentary delegation led by Verivakis Lithius, member of the Greek parliament and Pasok [Panhellenic Socialist Movement] Central Committee [name and title as received].

During the meeting, the head of the committee reviewed the aggressive schemes and practices of the United States and its allies, as well as the effects of the continued unjust economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, including children, elderly people, and women.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with means of promoting parliamentary cooperation and continuing meetings between the two sides on all levels to serve both peoples and the parliamentary movement.

The Greek parliamentary delegation arrived here yesterday on a several-day visit to Iraq to acquaint itself with the destructive effects of the 30-state aggression and the Iraqi people's suffering under the continued economic blockade, as well as for talks with National Assembly members.

Iranian Bombs Dropped in April Kill 3, Injure 1

JN0508100492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Aug (INA)—Three Iraqi citizens have been martyred and another one severely injured when a container dropped by Iranian planes during a raid launched on the Diyala Governorate in April went off. Two brothers were among the victims of the incident. This raid was an act of outrageous aggression.

In a news report published here today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH quotes a responsible source as saying that Civil Defense men in Diyala Governorate, 60 km north of Baghdad, defused several containers in the aftermath of the dirty air raid conducted by Iranian aircraft. Then, the heroic men of antiaircraft defenses shot down an Iranian plane, while the other planes fled, dropping their bombs on an open agricultural area.

Paper Hails Kuwait Invasion Anniversary

JN0408093692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that the great Day of the Call marked off the borderlines separating the trench of true and noble Arabism from the trench of agentry and treason.

In an article published today, the paper affirms that the great Day of the Call came about as the required and enlightened response to all the conspiracy and aggression scenarios hatched by the United States and its allies to control the strategically important Arab region.

AL-QADISIYAH indicates that the historic event triggered on the Day of the Call flagrantly exposed the fragile official Arab order and showed the insincerity of the false, yet "shining" slogans urging solidarity, unity, and fateful cohesion. The paper notes that the policies pursued by some Arab regimes "hid" behind these slogans to "conceal" their agentry as well as their servile collusion with the Arab people's archenemy against the present and future of this nation's pan-Arab security.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that the great Day of the Call served as a message addressed to all world peoples in general, and to the peoples ruled by certain Arab regimes in particular, urging them to step up their revolutionary action to topple these regimes, which are mistakenly called Arab.

Students Cable Saddam on 'Day of the Call'

JN0408153092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of allegiance from Iraqi students on the second anniversary of the great Day of the Call. In their cable, the Iraqi students affirmed that the steadfastness, defiance, and creativity running in their blood would not have been so lively had not they graduated from the school of the leader of victory, Saddam Husayn, and not enjoyed his noble support.

The students pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn that they will devote their pens for the alleviation of Iraq's status and will turn them into spears to pierce the chests of the enemies who covet the homeland's resources and the achievements of the great 17-30 July revolution. They said: Our energies and all our possessions are at leader President Saddam Husayn's beck and call.

Saddam Adviser Opens Factory To Mark Anniversary

JN0408160392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1407 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—On the anniversary of the great Day of the Call, Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the Republic and supervisor of industry and oil, today inaugurated a fiberglass factory.

The presidential adviser urged workers at the factory to promote petrochemicals projects, including this vital factory, so that they can serve as multipurpose projects and meet the domestic need for fiberglass.

Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan stressed the importance of increasing the production of fiberglass, which is an important and alternative material that can be used in industry and construction.

The presidential adviser praised the efforts of the military industrialization's mujahid workers in continuing, installing, and operating the factory through faithful Iraqi capabilities which prove daily the glorious Iraqis' creative potential. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Visits al-Qadisiyah Governorate

JN0308192492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and vice president, has conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the sons of al-Qadisiyah Governorate and his excellency's pride in their national stands in confronting all forms of aggression, agentry, and plotting against great Iraq.

During his visit today to al-Qadisiyah Governorate and his meeting with al-Qadisiyah Governor Ahmad 'Abdallah Salih and the comrade secretary and members of the al-Qadisiyah branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed that the current stage requires translating the slogans of jihad and construction into concrete action in the arena of labor and sacrifice.

He pointed out that the Iraqis have become, thanks to their steadfastness and creativity in production and jihad, and in spite of the unjust blockade, an example for struggling nations that have faith in their resources and capabilities and that adhere to their principles.

He called on Ba'thist strugglers and the masses to pursue creative work in a spirit of jihad, and to shun all conventional methods.

Taha Yasin Ramadan listened to a detailed review by the governor and the comrade secretary of the party's branch on services rendered to the sons of the governorate and the march of building and reconstruction, as well as the agricultural campaign under way in the governorate.

The governor and the secretary of the party's branch renewed the readiness of the governorate's masses to stand behind the historic leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn and to confront the attempts of the American enemies and their agents to undermine the homeland's sovereignty and dignity.

During his visit to al-Qadisiyah Governorate, the vice president was accompanied by comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Euphrates organizations of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

In a related activity, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and vice president, met with senior cadre of the al-Qadisiyah party branch, in the presence of comrade

'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the party's Euphrates organizations.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's message and great objectives entrust Ba'thist strugglers with major responsibilities to carry out their struggle tasks and mobilize all their energies to serve great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation.

The vice president asserted that the Iraqis, under the leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn, always march forward by virtue of their great and creative acts. He further pointed out that in spite of the unjust blockade, the struggler Iraqis have accomplished many strategic projects, such as leader Saddam Husayn's river, manufacturing of the al-Nida' tractor and al-Rafidayn harvester, as well as dozens of projects involving dams and bridges and investment on all agricultural land.

He asserted that these accomplishments have foiled the schemes of the enemies and will force them to abandon their aggressive policy, after they have given up on their attempts to undermine the will of the sons of the heroic leader, Saddam Husayn.

The members of the senior cadre in al-Qadisiyah branch of the party renewed their pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn to remain at his beck and call, to bear full responsibility and trust, and to remain as brandished swords in his excellency's hand to fight the enemies of right, light, and freedom.

The meeting was attended by al-Qadisiyah Governor Ahmad 'Abdallah Salih and the comrade secretary of al-Qadisiyah party branch.

'Profile' of New Higher Education Minister

JN0208160692 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 31 Jul 92 p 4

[Text] Following is a profile of Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, minister of higher education and scientific research:
Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur was born in al-Ramadi in 1945.
He obtained his certificate from the Military College as a member of its heroic 42d class.
He obtained a bachelors degree in physics in 1966-67, Baghdad.
He obtained a masters degree in nuclear physics in 1970, London.
He obtained a doctorate degree in science and technology management in Paris.
On 10 February 1974, he was elected member of the Atomic Energy Committee.
On 27 May 1974, he was appointed to the office of Revolution Command Council vice chairman to supervise atomic energy activities.
On 29 July 1977, he was appointed active member of the Atomic Energy Committee.
On 25 February 1978, he was appointed chief of the Nuclear Research Center.
On 6 August 1981, he was appointed deputy chairman of the Atomic Energy Organization.
On 15 February 1988, he was appointed chairman of the Atomic Energy Organization with the rank of minister.
He is an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party branch command member.
He was awarded the party badge in 1984.

Ayatollah Kho'i Returns After Hospitalization

LD3007172192 Tehran IRNA in English 1514 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] London, July 30, IRNA—Grand Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i returned to his residence, in al-Kufah, Iraq today after one week of hospitalization in Ibn-Nafis hospital and a successfull surgical operation. London based Kho'i foundation said today that he is now in a satisfactory condition.

Ayatollah Kho'i was transferred to Baghdad July 22 immediately after his attendant physicians became aware of a slowdown in his heart rhythm. He underwent a surgical operation at which a special cell was inserted under his skin to help adjust his cardiac rhythm.

Earlier in March last year the grand ayatollah was carried away by Iraqi regime's security forces to appear on the Iraqi television along with Saddam Husayn. Ayatollah Kho'i is now 95.

Upcoming Round of Peace Negotiations Outlined

Peres Seeks Autonomy in 9-12 Months

TA0408184492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says time is pressing, and the peace process and autonomy negotiations must be pursued. Therefore, he says, Israel must hold discussions with the present Palestinian delegation, rather than initiate elections to a new one. Such a process would hold up the negotiations. The foreign minister was the guest of the Jerusalem Economic Association today. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports:

[Begin recording] [Litman] First of all, the most pressing foreign affairs issue of the day: the arms deal with Taiwan. The foreign minister promises that his office, together with the Defense Ministry, will decide within a few days whether Taiwan is to receive the 40 Israeli Kfir planes. The audience insists on knowing which way the decision makers are inclined: How probable is it that the Kfir deal will be carried through despite the vehement objection of the PRC? The foreign minister's answer is somewhat vague:

[Peres] I can tell you at this point that the Israeli Government does not intend to violate any previous commitment either to China or any other country.

[Litman] With respect to autonomy, Shim'on Peres asserts that the most pressing issue is the elections. The foreign minister says that the Palestinians have requested the holding of elections to a legislative assembly. Such elections, he explains, would constitute a step toward the establishment of a Palestinian state.

[Peres] After his visit to Israel, Baker left with the impression that the Palestinians are ready to enter negotiations at once, and also that the issue on the agenda of the negotiations will be an administrative, not a legislative, council.

[Litman] The foreign minister implies that some people have proposed holding elections in the near future for a Palestinian representation that would conduct autonomy negotiations. Yet he, Shim'on Peres, is in favor of continuing the negotiations with the current Palestinian delegation. He asserts that the government remains true to its commitment to make every effort to achieve autonomy within nine to 12 months.

[Peres] Any attempt to change the composition of the Palestinian delegation will require more negotiations and cause a loss of time.

[Litman] Shim'on Peres addresses pressing issues, but as usual, leaves time for his vision. He depicts a Middle East of peace and diverse cooperation between Israel and all the countries around it. His central message, however, is that time is pressing or, in his words: This is the time to fly high and fast toward peace. [end recording]

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 4 August adds that "Foreign Minister Peres spoke with Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd today. The two discussed the peace process in their phone conversation. According to our reporter in London, Peres set out the new Israeli Government's approach to the peace process. Foreign Secretary Hurd welcomed the new Israeli approach and added that he looked forward to discussing the peace process and other issues when the two meet in the near future."]

Negotiators Briefed on Next Round

TA0408201192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] A first briefing for the heads of the Israeli negotiating teams slated to participate in the next round of direct peace talks was held today at the Prime Minister's Office. The briefing was conducted by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who is also one of the team heads. In the wake of the meeting, it was learned that in the course of the talks, the heads of the teams will return home for consultations.

The meeting was attended also by Yosi Ben-Aharon, the former head of the negotiating team with Syria, who revealed that he had been explicitly instructed by former Prime Minister Shamir to refrain from addressing any territorial issue with the Syrians.

Aloni Urges Replacing Delegation Head

TA0408200792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni from Meretz proposes that Elyaqim Rubinstein be replaced and that he be prevented from participating in the peace talks. On this and other issues, here is our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik:

The real political debate will start after Yitzhaq Rabin returns from the United States. Minister Aloni, the leader of the second largest government component, reassures her audience: I do not intend to threaten to resign from the government every other day. She is appreciative of Rabin's debut, but believes he is overcautious. She says that the Palestinians can be allowed to elect their representatives to the peace talks, including Faysal al-Husayni, and that the law banning meetings with the PLO should be revoked.

She also believes that there is room to replace Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the team to talks with the Palestinians and Jordanians and coordinator of the Israeli delegation to the coming round of talks. He is loyal, the education and culture minister tells political reporters, but he aided the previous government in misleading the Americans.

As for the talks with Syria, Aloni says that the Golan Heights Law does not give Israel title to the Golan Heights, although she believes an arrangement that

would not uproot Golan settlements is possible. She adds, however, and I am quoting: I did not send them to live there. Moreover, I do not object to Jews remaining under Palestinian autonomy, but the government does not have to provide for them. [passage omitted]

On another issue, Minister Aloni voices reservations about the existence of the undercover units in the territories. She says she has requested a meeting on this issue with security elements, because she does not think that 18 and 19 year olds should be allowed to decide on and to carry out death sentences.

Negotiators To Propose General Elections

TA0508070992 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Aug 92 pp 1, 15

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinians will propose holding general elections in the territories in the next round of talks to be held in Washington.

In these elections, 13 to 15 representatives will be chosen for the autonomy's administrative council.

That is the outcome of yesterday morning's discussion in the Prime Minister's Office by the steering committee of the negotiating teams. Participating in the discussions were the delegation heads—Elyaqim Rubinstein, Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Dr. Yosi Hadas, and Uri Lubrani.

Up to now, Israel has offered the Palestinians municipal elections. Under Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's instructions, the meeting was told that Israel will suggest holding general elections in the territories only after the sides reach an agreement on the meaning and substance of the self-government to be given to the Palestinians.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 5 August published a similar report by Amnon Barzilay on page 5, which adds the following: "According to the guidelines Rabin handed Rubinstein, priority will be given to negotiations with the Palestinians over Syria. Israel will make it clear to the Palestinians that the autonomy plan will be worked out precisely according to the Camp David accords and will suggest that elections in the territories be held immediately after an agreement is reached with the Palestinians on setting up the autonomy. Israel will also suggest to the Palestinians setting up subgroups to discuss issues of substance." To show the Palestinians that "Israel plans to hold real negotiations, it will present a timetable for the start of discussions on the permanent settlement in the territories."]

In meetings with the Lebanese delegation, Israel will reiterate its offer to adopt a series of confidence-building measures in south Lebanon as the first stage of negotiations with representatives of that country.

In reference to negotiations with Syria, the committee was told that Professor Rabinovich, the new head of the Israeli team, is currently studying the issues that have cropped up so far in these talks. Only after the prime minister returns from his U.S. visit will new instructions be issued to that team.

Yesterday a final decision was made that all the teams that handled negotiations with the Arab delegations under the Likud government—except for Yosi Ben-Aharon, the former director general of the Prime Minister's Office—will continue under the current government.

Kahalani Heads Lobby Against Golan Concessions

TA0508073292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Labor Knesset Member [MK] Avigdor Kahalani will head the Golan Heights lobby in the Knesset. Eli Malka, the chairman of the Golan Heights settlement council, told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that 37 MK's had already joined the lobby and another 32 MK's had promised him they would join within a few days.

MK Kahalani said that the subscription of approximately 70 MK's to the lobby's principles would preclude any Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a result of negotiations between Israel and Syria. At the very most, he asserted, only minor border adjustments of several hundred meters were acceptable on the Golan Heights.

MK's Immunity Withdrawal Urged After PLO Talks

TA0508104092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] The Knesset House Committee has begun proceedings to lift the immunity of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] faction member Hashim Mahamid following his meetings with PLO leaders in Tunis.

The request was made by Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Eytan, of the Likud.

Commander Sees End to Calm Along Jordan Border

TA0408113592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] In a conversation they held a while ago, Major General Dani Yatom, commander of the Central Command, told our military correspondent Karmela Menashe that the calm that was observed in the region over the past year has apparently come to an end.

[Begin recording] [Yatom] There is no doubt that we will have to continue to demand of the Jordanian Government that it do whatever is necessary to make sure that such and other attacks do not originate on Jordanian territory and that attackers do not cross the border into our territory. The Jordanian Government is responsible for making sure that such incidents do not take place.

[Menashe] You relayed a message to the Jordanians. How was it received?

[Yatom] I believe and know that the message was received. I would not like to go into detail. Nevertheless, we have observed that the Jordanians are taking steps to try to prevent such incidents. At the same time, they must be more efficient. They must make sure that any infiltration attempt is stopped on Jordanian soil. I would like to add that we do not depend on Jordan's ability. We consider ourselves responsible for the security of this region and its inhabitants. We will continue to do our job, and we will spare no resource in carrying out our task. [end recording]

Jerusalem Mayor To Halt Demolition Orders

TA0308050592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Excerpt] Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek says until the government eases the process by which Arab residents of East Jerusalem obtain building permits, he will no longer sign house demolition orders. Kollek calls for new measures making the process Arabs must undergo to obtain building permits identical to the process Jews must undergo. [passage omitted]

Settlers Seek Private Funds To Continue Building

TA0208191892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Amana, Gush Emunim's settlement movement, has drafted a plan to build and populate all the apartments in the territories whose construction has been frozen by the government. The settlers will finance the construction of 1,500 apartments out of their own pockets, without the privileged loans and grants they received in the past. The construction of some 40 housing units began today in three settlements in Mate Binyamin. Our settlement affairs correspondent Nitzan Hen reports:

A first change in the settlers' modus operandi in their struggle against the freeze on budgets to the settlements: Instead of coming out with declarations of war, they are getting ready for the new reality. This reality is not as tough as they had initially thought, seeing that the construction minister's decision to freeze construction applies to fewer than 1,500 apartments in the territories whose construction has already begun, whereas the construction of over 9,000 apartments will continue as planned.

Nevertheless, the Mate Binyamin Development Society today started completing the construction of 20 apartments in 'Ofra, 12 in Bet Horon, and 25 in Talmon—apartments whose construction was frozen by the government's decision. The settlers' general idea is to enlist private entrepreneurs who sympathize with the national camp to save the settlement drive in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. [passage omitted]

Ben-Eli'ezer—Price of Canceling Building Doubled

TA0308145492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer believes the cost of paying out compensation for the cancellation of construction work will be between 350 and 400 million shekels, although last week he estimated it would be only between 100 and 150 million shekels.

In reference to the freeze on the paving of the trans-Samaria road, Ben-Eli'ezer told the Knesset Economics Committee that he has no doubt that it has strategic value, but in view of the condition of the roads in Israel, it is clear that the government must first invest in the heavily-used roads and the so-called red roads where most of the accidents occur. Our correspondent Eytan Almog reports that in response, Likud committee Chairman Gid'on Pa: said that events might take place in the future that will force the government to pave most of the bypass roads now frozen.

Sharon Alleges 'Faulty Information' on Housing

TA0408181692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Former Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon has accused the current housing minister, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, of disseminating faulty information regarding building throughout the country. Sharon held a press conference this afternoon and gave reporters what he said were accurate statistics on construction.

He refuted Ben-Eli'ezer's claim that tens of thousands of apartments stand empty throughout the country. Sharon said 15,000 apartments were built in Galilee during his term as housing minister, and 7,100 of them have been rented.

1,500 Housing Units Approved Near Jerusalem

TA0408192492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Approval has been granted for the construction of 1,500 housing units in an Arab village east of the Armon Hanetziv neighborhood in Jerusalem. According to the decision, made by the Regional Planning and Construction Committee, the houses will be built in the village of 'Arab al-Sawahirah in southeast Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the committee further approved additions to existing houses in the village, which is planned to have a total of 2,600 housing units.

Committee members protested the Jerusalem mayor's announcement that he would sign no more demolition orders against illegally built houses in Jerusalem until the government decides on a clear policy.

Study Faults E. Jerusalem Lack of Planning

TA0408123292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
4 Aug 92 p A10

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] "East Jerusalem's Arab population doubled in the 16 years between 1967 and 1983. The high birth rate and internal migration from the West Bank resulted in significant demographic growth, which led to extensive construction that did not follow any orderly planning by the Israeli authorities," states the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies as part of a study on construction and planning in East Jerusalem.

"The Israeli political establishment could not decide on an appropriate planning concept. Due to political reasons, it did not draft any blueprints or master plans until 1983 (except for the AM-9 plan for the Old City basin, from Mount Scopus in the north to Armon Hanetziv in the south) and issued few building licenses. The AM-9 plan did not help improve the situation. It applied to a relatively small and mostly built area, allowed very little construction, and was not followed up by specific plans.

"In the absence of orderly plans, building licenses in East Jerusalem were issued on the basis of Article 78 of the Planning and Construction Law. These licenses were originally meant as short-term, ad hoc solutions until orderly plans were drafted. In practice, however, they allowed construction in areas that had already been earmarked for building anyway, from Kafr 'Aqab in the north to Sur Bahir in the south. The licenses made no mention of any restrictions, overall planning, or the vital public needs of the fast-developing villages and neighborhoods."

According to the report, "until 1983, Arab construction in East Jerusalem continued to be sporadic, based on Article 78, and included no community planning. Construction in most areas was rural, and consisted of single one- or two-story stone buildings with flat roofs scattered over a steep terrain. Access roads were few, narrow, meandering, and unpaved. The absence of an orderly infrastructure system and valid plans hindered an improvement of the infrastructure, as well as the building of roads, parks, and other public services which are taken for granted in the Jewish sector."

"The political level's procrastinating policy and the decision to base construction on Article 78 had very serious repercussions on the overall planning for East Jerusalem. This situation, which has persisted for many years, has resulted in a dearth of public land for the Arab population and the operation of public services in peripheral areas not covered by Article 78."

The report goes on to say that the government and the municipality changed their policy in 1983 and decided to draft a blueprint for all of East Jerusalem in a bid to solve the ever- worsening problems. Initiated by Jerusalem Municipality's Planning Policy Department, the blueprint was based on several comprehensive plans for all parts of East Jerusalem, particularly for the northern sector where there is the greatest potential for population growth.

According to this blueprint, empty areas in the midst or on the outskirts of built areas would be filled out in the southern and eastern sections. In the northern sector, private buildings and public housing projects built around modern community services would go up on extensive areas. However, the plan ran into difficulties from the very beginning:

1. There is no zoning in many areas in East Jerusalem.

2. The Arab sector is characterized by a lack of large-scale building initiatives. Either land owners refrained from selling their lots or the fact that there were numerous owners made construction and development difficult.

3. There were difficulties in collecting money for infrastructure development. Seeing that most building in the Arab sector consists of single houses on a large area, the fees are high and the residents have difficulty paying them.

4. The Israeli authorities had no experience in planning semi-rural areas characteristic of East Jerusalem, which lack any adequate infrastructure systems. The extensive and scattered construction since 1967 made it even more difficult to draw up any specific plans, and the lack of any authorized representation for the Arab population further hindered dialogue and negotiations on any plans.

Experts from the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies determined that "these factors greatly encumbered the planning of East Jerusalem, especially in terms of roads, infrastructure, and the earmarking of land for public needs. However, the foot-dragging practiced by government elements and various planning commissions posed the greatest obstacle. The root of the problem lies in the desire to preserve 'the demographic balance' between Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem, which resulted in a tendency to prohibit large-scale Arab building. The most prominent example is the argument between the Jerusalem Municipality and the Construction and Housing Ministry over the scope of Arab construction in north Jerusalem (the 3000 plan), which cut down proposed construction (as a result of Construction Ministry pressure) from 18,000 to 7,500 housing units."

The institute stated that "this policy is rooted in the incorrect assumption that a lack of planning and the denial of building permits would reduce the volume of construction in the Arab sector. However, it has been proven that Arab construction has not stopped but has rather continued both within and outside Jerusalem. A large part of this construction was carried out legally in accordance with Article 78, while part of it was carried out without building licenses.

Rabin Announces 9 Deputy Ministers

TA0408180792 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Announcement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the Knesset plenum—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, Honorable Knesset Members, in accordance with clause 34 of the Basic Law: The Government, I hereby announce the appointment of the following deputy ministers:
Knesset Member [MK] Yosef Beilin for the position of deputy minister at the Foreign Ministry;
MK Eli Ben-Menahem for the position of deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office;
MK Mikha Goldman for the position of deputy minister at the Education and Culture Ministry;
MK Mordekhay Gur for the position of deputy minister at the Defense Ministry;
MK Ran Kohen for the position of deputy minister at the Construction and Housing Ministry;
MK Masha Lubelsky for the position of deputy minister at the Trade and Industry Ministry;
MK Nawaf Musaliha for the position of deputy minister at the Health Ministry;
MK Refa'el Pinhasi for the position of deputy minister at the Finance Ministry;
MK Walid Sadiq for the position of deputy minister at the Agriculture Ministry.

I wish them success in their new positions.

MK Zvili Rejects Deputy Finance Minister Post

TA0408162992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Nisim Zvili today announced that he was renouncing the post of deputy finance minister. This, after Finance Minister Avraham Shohat refused to allocate Zvili enough authority and fields of responsibility.

Officials at the finance minister's bureau expressed satisfaction with Zvili's announcement.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin presented his nine deputy ministerial appointments to the Knesset today. Six of the deputy ministers belong to the Labor party, two belong to Meretz, and one belongs to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]

UTJ Promised No Change in Labor Ministry

TA0408165192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Coalition Chairman Eli Dayan has promised United Torah Jewry [UTJ] representatives that the temporary assignment of the labor and social welfare portfolio to Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer will be followed by no changes or appointments in the ministry. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the portfolio was assigned to the construction and housing minister after consultation with UTJ.

The prime minister's bureau announced today that Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am will be in charge of the Religious Affairs Ministry for the time being. The UTJ was told that the coalition will await its answer on joining the coalition until the end of the Knesset recess [26 October].

Ultra-Orthodox Council Not To Join Coalition

TA0408202192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] The Council of Torah Sages, which is affiliated with the Degel Hatora faction, has decided unequivocally that the faction will not join the coalition in its present form. The council noted that the Agudat Yisra'el's Torah Sages had made a similar decision, and that the entire United Torah Jewry is thus unanimous on this issue.

Our party affairs correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports that the Degel Hatora Torah Sages decided to reinforce the faction and its institutions and to seek ways to enhance coexistence with Agudat Yisra'el.

Knesset Committee Briefed on Undercover Units

TA0408174492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said that for the first time in a long period, the number of wanted men being captured by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is greater than the number of new fugitives added to the list. The IDF is scoring successes, which sometimes extract a heavy price, Lieutenant General Baraq said. The chief of staff was speaking before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

The main issues on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee's agenda today were the Palestinian fugitives on the one hand, and the counteractions carried out by the IDF's undercover units on the other. The chief of staff reviewed the issue of the wanted men, and asserted that the IDF had scored accomplishments in capturing the fugitives. Recently, he said, there had been a drop in their number for the first time.

Over the past few weeks, Baraq said, 68 wanted men were captured and 28 turned themselves in. There are still approximately 200 wanted men in Judaea and Samaria and about 100 in the Gaza Strip. Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid asked what rules of engagement were observed by the undercover units. On the one hand, Sarid said, soldiers in these units are constantly being criticized for being trigger happy. On the other hand, excessive restraint is shown in other instances. This, Sarid asserted, indicates that the soldiers operate in a gray area, apparently amid a great deal of confusion.

Sarid said that he meets with both soldiers and officers from the undercover units and hears their complaints.

The soldiers claim that there are no clear procedures and complain that afterward they are the ones who have to bear responsibility for any mishaps. MK Sarid asked how could it be that not even one of these units' commanders had ever retired upon completion of his full term.

The chief of staff replied that only one of the commanders had been removed from his post. As for the other allegations, Baraq retorted in his typical manner: the units operate under clear instructions but within a very complex operational reality. These units observe the same rules of engagement as all other Army units. It is easy to criticize from inside an air conditioned room, the chief of staff alleged.

MK Beni Begin would later retort that the general staff also held its meetings in an air conditioned room. On another issue, MK Sharon would advise the chief of staff that it would be better not to use the term locals but rather Arabs. There are terrorists and there are Arabs, Sharon said. The chief of staff, noted a veteran participant in the committee's sessions, is not in for an easy ride here.

'No Intention' To Limit Operations

TA0508050992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] In reaction to the criticism leveled in Israel against the undercover units, military sources asserted that these units make a decisive contribution to the war against terror. The sources noted that there was no intention to limit these units' operations even when steps toward implementing autonomy are adopted. This was reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Spokesman Responds to Red Cross Report

TA0508065292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Excerpts] The International Red Cross [IRC] has criticized the rules of engagement observed by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] special units in the territories. [passage omitted]

In reaction, the IDF spokesman said that he would not comment publicly on the IRC report. The spokesman noted, however, that the special units observe clearly stipulated rules of engagement, which have been endorsed by both the military advocate general and the state attorney. These rules apply to all IDF soldiers, including those in the special units. These units, asserted the IDF spokesman, operate under difficult conditions and confront armed and dangerous fugitives in complex circumstances. Nevertheless, he said, they make the utmost effort to uphold the law. [passage omitted]

Baraq, Local Commander on Khan Yunus Incident

TA0208163492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] This afternoon Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq toured the site of this morning's clash in Khan Yunus where three soldiers were wounded and an armed terrorist was killed. The chief of staff said that the soldiers had killed one of the most prominent terrorists in the Gaza Strip and stressed that the Army operation had been conducted under very tough conditions, with the odds absolutely on the terrorist's side. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, and other senior Army commanders in the Gaza Strip also toured the site.

A colonel who participated in the clash told our correspondent that the three soldiers were wounded in the first round of fire as the unit forced its way into the building.

Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami'a, commander of the Gaza Strip, said the three soldiers wounded in the initiated operation were leading the troops: a lieutenant, who was the commander of one contingent, and two enlisted men. Two were very seriously wounded, while the third sustained light to moderate wounds. According to Brig. Gen. Sami'a, the terrorist had a Kalashnikov and a large amount of ammunition. Local inhabitants apparently helped him hide and barricade himself, but the unit moved in on him and killed him. Prior to the intifadah the terrorist had served in the Israel Police and was trained in the use of firearms, which showed in the accuracy of his shots. Brig. Gen. Sami'a pointed out that the number of casualties is in no way related to the safety precautions taken by the unit not to hit local inhabitants.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT at 2 August notes that "the curfew that was imposed overnight on Khan Yunus in the wake of a clash between an Army unit and a wanted terrorist has been lifted."]

Soldier Dies of Wounds Following Clash

TA0308103392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Excerpt] Corporal Doron Daniyel Derzy, critically wounded in Saturday night's clash in Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip, has died of his wounds in Beersheba's Soroka Hospital. He has been posthumously awarded the rank of sergeant. Twenty-year-old Derzy will be buried at 1700 in the Mount Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Prisoner Dies in Tulkarm; Investigation Ordered

TA0508050592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] A 24-year-old prisoner in the security service section of the Tulkarm prison has died. The IDF [Israel Defense Ministry] spokesman says that an initial investigation shows that an asthma attack led to the death of Mustafa Mahmud Barakat from the village of 'Anabta. Security forces have ordered an investigation into the death.

A soldier was lightly injured last night in Rafah in the Gaza Strip when members of his patrol came under fire. The soldier was hit in the knee and the hand. He was taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. The Army closed the area.

'No Evidence' Infiltrators Started From Jordan

JN0408144192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] A Jordanian military spokesman in Amman has said that the Jordanian Armed Forces have no evidence that the individuals who tried to infiltrate Israel this morning left from Jordan.

An Israeli military spokesman announced earlier today that three armed anti-Israelis were killed and two Israeli soldiers injured during a clash along the truce line separating Israel and Jordan.

The spokesman said that the clash occurred north of the occupied West Bank, near Mehola settlement in the Jordan Valley.

King Meets Iraqi Author, Reveals 'New Secrets'

JN0308182392 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Aug 92 p 1

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn has received Iraqi author Sa'd al-Bazzaz [chief editor of Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH]. His majesty spoke frankly with him about the situation in the Arab region and how he visualizes its future given what has taken place—and continues to take place—in the area. During their meeting at the Royal Hashemite Court, al-Bazzaz received answers from King Husayn to questions he will raise in his new book detailing the developments preceding the aggression against Iraq and its results, including developments which have taken place over the past two years, and why an Arab solution to the problems that have accompanied these developments has yet to be found.

In his replies to questions al-Bazzaz will include in his new book, His Majesty King Husayn revealed new secrets about the topics discussed.

Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, attended the meeting.

Compliance With Shipping Requirements Urged

JN0208121692 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Aug 92 p 14

[By Salam al-Shawwa; all ship names as received in Latin characters]

[Text] In a recent important development on the level of sanctions imposed on al-'Aqabah port, the multinational naval forces have intercepted six commercial ships carrying goods for the Jordanian market. These forces barred three of these ships from entering al-'Aqabah port and changed their route to other ports. Three ships were delayed for three days at the Straits of Tiran.

Tawfiq Qa'war, the doyen of the shipping agents, has described the matter as an important and serious development. This is the first time the naval inspection forces have made extensive contacts with the Bahrain headquarters to brief them on the names and addresses of owners of goods carried on board the ships.

The doyen added that officials in Bahrain made many direct contacts with these addresses through the embassies of the inspection forces in Amman in order to verify the information on the shipping documents.

However, the inspection centers in Bahrain have shown clear, unnecessary stringency. They barred the ship "Glorious Ace" carrying cars for the Jordanian market from entering al-'Aqabah because of a printing mistake of a telephone number.

This ship was only allowed to enter al-'Aqabah port after ceaseless efforts by the ship's local agent and his extensive contacts with the concerned embassy and the inspection forces command center to persuade the commanders to allow the ship to enter.

Tawfiq Qa'war, the doyen of shipping agents, called on all Jordanian traders to adhere to the inspection requirements, providing the importer's full address, including the street name, the number and name of the building—not just providing the post office box number—in addition to the importer's telephone numbers, telex and facsimile numbers as well as the importer's emergency telephone number. The full name and address of the exporter through the bank which issued the documentary credits should also be provided.

The doyen stressed that adhering to these conditions will practically help in avoiding any cause for delay to the ships. He said that it is necessary for the importers of goods on fully chartered ships [previous three words in English] carrying rice, sugar, fat, and so on should ask the exporter to comply with the abovementioned instructions in terms of addresses on the shipping documents. In addition, it is necessary that the exporter stack the goods inside the cargo holds in a way that facilitates their inspection as mentioned before.

Qa'war said that adherence to these inspection conditions will indeed have a negative impact on our national economy as it will noticeably increase the cost of sea shipping. However, he added, these losses are not much compared with having these inspection forces bar a ship from entering al-'Aqabah or delaying it for relatively long periods of time. Hence we repeat our call on the brother importers and our banking institutions to adhere to these instructions.

Ships that were intercepted:

1. The ship "Lady Athulia" was intercepted on 18 July, 1992 and was allowed to enter al-'Aqabah on 21 July, 1992 after a three-day delay.

2. The ship "Zanymaya Octaybrya" was intercepted on 28 July, 1992 and was allowed to enter al-'Aqabah on 30 July, 1992 after a two-day delay.

3. The ship "Elobued" was intercepted on 5 July, 1992 and was allowed to enter al-'Aqabah on 7 July, 1992 after a two-day delay.

Banned Ships:

The inspection forces also barred three ships from entering the port because there are no passageways between the goods. These ships are:

1. The ship "Kaptin Kershov" carrying 13,700 tonnes of sugar for the Jordanian market was intercepted by inspection forces on 29 July, 1992 and was banned from continuing to al-'Aqabah because there were no passageways between the goods inside the cargo holds. The ship is still waiting at the Straits of Tiran.

2. The ship "Paci" was not allow to continue its departure from al-'Aqabah because there were no passsageways in its shipment of rice bound for Jeddah originally on board the ship when it came to al-'Aqabah. Therefore, the ship owners had to return to al-'Aqabah to restack the goods there in a way that is in line with the requirements of the inspection forces.

3. The ship "Sri Wuaya" coming to al-'Aqabah to unload approximately 3,600 tonnes of fat for Jordanian importers stacked on top of 5,000 tonnes of goods shipped from Europe. However, the absence of passageways between the goods inside the cargo holds prompted the inspection forces to prevent it from entering al-'Aqabah.

Moreover, the forces prevented a ship from continuing to al-'Aqabah last week because there were chemical materials inside the ship's holds, claiming that these materials are a danger to the inspection team when they go in to inspect. Thus, the owners of this ship, which operates a regular sea route that has long been serving al-'Aqabah and the Jordanian market, had to return to Suez port and unload its shipment of chemical materials and return again to the inspection area. The ship was delayed for three days at the Straits of Tiran until it obtained the full addresses of all the importers and exporters.

'Stranglehold' on al-Aqabah

JN0208063592 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 92 p 3

["Stranglehold on al-'Aqabah Shipping is Tightened" by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The enforcers of the international sanctions against Iraq have tightened their stranglehold on shipping in the Red Sea after a short respite, shipping agents reported Saturday.

"They are now adhering to the letter of the guidlelines related to the inspection of vessels sailing into al-'Aqabah, leading to unnecessary delay and losses for importers," said a spokesman for the Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSAA).

Under the "new" procedures adopted by the warships patrolling the Red Sea, any vessel to carry "suspect" cargo could be categorically denied entry or face a delay of three days during which shipment details are verified.

All details related to cargo, including the street address and telephone number of the importer as given in the ship's manifest, are routed for verification through the Bahrain headquarters of the American-led international enforcers of the embargo against Iraq.

The concerned importer in Amman is contacted directly from Bahrain or through the embassies of the anti-Iraq coalition. "The cargo could be rejected for entry to al-'Aqabah at the slightest trace of doubt, and this could include a printing mistake of the telephone number of the importer or if, for some reason, the concerned person is not available to answer questions," said the JSAA spoksman.

Earlier, the "verification" process was done directly between the concerned diplomatic missions in Amman and the naval fleet in the Red Sea.

American officials say that hundreds of "front" companies are operating out of Amman with Iraqi government funds and import goods for the Iraqi market. According to these officials, the companies deal in foodstuffs and medicine—which are exempt from the sanction—as well as "crucial" items in violation of the embargo to help the continued reign in power of the government of President Saddam Husayn.

However, very little information is released by the officials on what they consider "crucial." Several names of companies and individuals were given in a recent international agency report, but Jordan Times inquires found that almost all of them were no longer operative. Some of them were found to have closed down two years ago.

Jordanian officials, including Finance Minister Basil Jardanah, do not deny that Iraqi businessmen have set up business in partnership with Jordnians and ask whether there is any international law against allowing foreigners to operate legitimate joint ventures with Jordanians in Jordanian territory.

The fresh tightening of the sanctions enforcement in the Red Sea appeared to have come after proposal to station "international" inspectors in the Kingdom to monitor cargo traffic.

Several ships were detained at the Tiran Straits at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba last month and were allowed to proceed after an average of three days, the spokesman told the Jordan Times. He said all the vessels were carrying foodstuff such as rice, sugar, ghee etc. and provided the names of the ships and dates when they were "intercepted."

The enforcers of the Iraq sanctions "make no distinction among importers or consider that the cargo is destined

for the Jordanian market," he added, pointing out that all the vessels being harassed were carrying goods exclusively meant for Jordan.

The new "procedures" have done away with what had appeared to be a breakthrough four months ago in resolving problems faced by Jordanian shipping agents and importers since the imposition of the snactions against Iraq in August 1990.

Importers had reported that things were getting better since April this year if only because all parties concerned—shippers, importers, shipping agents and banks—were taking pains to ensure that every requirement of the sanction enforcers was fulfilled.

The JSAA Saturday issued a statement calling on all importers, shippers, banks and shipping agents to ensure that the full street address, including the name of the building, and telephone, telex and facsimile numbers as well as an "emergency" telephone number are given in all shipping documents.

It also urged that fully-chartered ships meet the enforcers' requirement of "cargo accessibility—meaning enough room for inspectors to enter hatches. Meeting this condition means deprivation of one-fourth of the cargo space, and, in turn, paying full charter price for three-fourth capacity.

"Adherence to these conditions is indeed damaging to the national economy as well as the importers, said the JSAA spokesman. "But we have no choice: Isn't it better to ensure that vessels are allowed into al-'Aqabah at an extra cost rather than no ships at all?"

Political Parties Law Amendments Introduced

JN0408093892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] The Senate held a session this morning under the chairmanship of Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi. The session was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and the Cabinet.

During the session, the Senate insisted on introducing some amendments to the political parties bill. The Senate's insistence on its stand for the second time and the House of Representatives' rejection of these amendments mean that the House and Senate will hold a joint session under the chairmanship of the president of the Senate to discuss the points of disagreement and to vote on them.

Interior Ministry Curtails Nomination Deadlines

NC0508140392 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib has issued a statement changing the dates for submitting and canceling candidate nominations for the parliamentary elections.

The statement said: The final deadline for submitting candidate nominations will be as follows: In the al-Shamal Governorate and al-Biqa' Governorate constituencies: 2400 hours Friday, 7 August, not 8 August; in the Bayrut City Governorate and Jabal Lubnan Governorate constituencies: 2400 hours Friday, 14 August, not Saturday, 15 August; and in al-Janub and al-Nabatiyah Governorates: 2400 hours Friday, 21 August, not Saturday, 22 August.

The final deadline for retracting candidate nominations is: in al-Shamal and al-Biqa': 2400 hours Wednesday, 12 August, not Thursday, 13 August; in Bayrut and Jabal Lubnan: 2400 hours Wednesday, 19 August, not Thursday, 20 August; in al-Janub and al- Nabatiyah: 2400 hours Wednesday, 26 August, not Thursday, 27 August.

The Interior Ministry has announced that the number of candidates nominating themselves was 130 as of close of business today. The most prominent of these are Ministers Sami al-Khatib and Shawqi Fakhuri.

Cabinet Discusses Security During Elections

NC0508134592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Excerpts] The cabinet held an ordinary session at 1100 today, President Ilyas al-Hirawi in the chair and Prime Minister Rashid al- Sulh attending. Seven ministers were absent: Nazih al-Bizri, Nasri al-Ma'luf, Ahmad Sami Minqarah, Sulayman Franjiyah, Samir Ja'ja', Walid Junblatt, and Marwan Hamadah. The cabinet discussed its agenda and approved most of the items. Defense Minister Michel al- Murr briefed the cabinet on the implementation of the decision to repossess state property occupied by others. At the next cabinet session the defense minister will submit a list of the properties repossessed so that they may be returned to the various ministries and departments, according to the law.

Turning to economic and social developments and measures to tackle them, the cabinet decided to form a committee of the ministers of labor, economy, finance, industry and oil, health, and information to contact the labor unions and the key economic figures to discuss socioeconomic concerns. [passage omitted]

On the inter-Maronite meeting expected to take place in Bkirki this evening, Information Minister Michel Samahah stressed that the cabinet had left it up to ministers whether or not to attend. He pointed out that he will attend.

Asked about U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker's remarks [on the elections], Minister Samahah said they are no different from the U.S. secretary of state's. We, he added, did not request a green light, nor were we given one.

On the Lebanese Army's role, Samahah said the Army is doing its best to protect the citizens, noting the Army's role in guarding the election rally in the south. He stressed the Army's role in protecting people and maintaining a favorable atmosphere of security to enable elections to proceed normally. Samahah said you cannot expect to hold perfect elections, noting that they reflect the tension among the various candidates' supporters. It is the duty of the Army and the Internal Security Forces, he added, to cool this atmosphere and maintain security.

Hizballah's Nasrallah Announces Elections Program

Holds News Conference 5 Aug

NC0508120892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah this morning held a news conference at which he presented Hizballah's election program. He named the party's candidates in several constituencies: There are four candidates in the Ba'labakk-al- Hirmil constituency, one in Zahlah, one in western al-Biqa'- Rashayya, one in Ba'abda, and one in Beirut. Hizballah will announce the names of its candidates in the south after the current contacts.

Names Seven Candidates

NC0508130792 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Hizballah has reiterated its support for parliamentary elections. He [as heard] said: Since dates have been fixed, we agree on holding the elections. Using the pretext of security reasons or the general situation is unjustified. I believe the presidential elections were held and supported by those who boycott or those who advocated a boycott and postponing elections under Israeli spears. He added: Circumstances today favor parliamentary elections. It is time for Lebanon to elect new representatives for its people so that it can face coming events.

This Hizballah stand was announced at a news conference by its Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, who named the party's candidates: Ibrahim al-Sayyid Ibrahim, Khadr Tulays, 'Ali Taha, Muhammad Hasan Yaghi, Ahmad al-Madhbuh, Ahmad Qam'ah, and 'Ali 'Ammar.

Shaykh Tulays on Program

NC0508073992 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Khadr Tulays held a political seminar yesterday in the Concorde Hall in Ba'labakk

in which he reviewed basic points included in Hizballah's comprehensive election program. The statement, some of which was announced, contains various sections: General political, developmental, administrative, economic, and educational.

The major political point remains resistance. The statement affirms that preserving Lebanon necessitates maintaining the resistance option against the Zionist occupation until all the occupied land is liberated, particularly as the resistance has confirmed in practice that it can stop the invaders using many opportunities to impose a political status quo against the interest of Lebanon and the Lebanese.

This option requires various commitments, most important of which is supporting the resistance fighters, facilitating their jihad means, and giving them official and popular political protection, in addition to setting the programs that direct abilities and potential toward building a society of steadfastness and resistance. There should be practical and serious interest in the occupied strip and the appropriate measures should be taken to thwart the current Zionist normalization plan.

The statement asks the authorities to support those families that lost their breadwinners in Zionist aggressions and to adopt the cause of the hostages and detainees in the Zionist prisons. The statement announces its rejection of any attempt at reconciliation with the Zionist entity and its constant efforts to thwart any attempt to normalize relations with it.

The second subject in the political section of Hizballah's statement deals with canceling political sectarianism, which the statement considers a major cause of the corrupt system in Lebanon and of the tragedies we are enduring. It is also a sly way for countries with designs to access Lebanon. The statement believes that one of the first duties of Hizballah candidates is concerted follow-up, cooperating with friends and honest people, to cancel this political sectarianism in no more than one constitutional term of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Hizballah program addresses the election law and asks that it be amended to let the Lebanese people choose their representatives from a broad base. This can be done by considering the whole of Lebanon as one constituency and making the voting age 18.

The program deals with political and media freedoms. It insists on the issue of the freedom of belief and respect for the sanctity of the divine religions, in addition to legislating laws that guarantee the freedom of political action and organize media, on condition that the authorities do not impose teachings.

The program's political section deals with nationality and demands that a modern law on nationality should be legislated, granting nationality to all those entitled to it by law. The political section also addresses the displaced people, demanding their full return and setting a comprehensive plan for their regions.

Hizballah's political statement also addresses the administrative, social, and economic issues. It demands reforming infrastructure. It highlights the need for administrative decentralization, while maintaining political unity and balanced growth in the various regions, as well as other issues that improve the administration's work.

On developmental aspects, the statement demands protecting local products and developing local resources by supporting industry and agriculture.

As for education, the program demands that official education be strengthened in every sector, particularly technical. The program also indicates the need to support the Lebanese University, especially the applied sciences faculties, sponsoring outstanding students, and bolstering research within the university.

The program insists on the need to rewrite history books to make them objective and appropriate for Lebanon's civilized standards in relation to its Arab and Islamic milieu.

It also demands bolstering religious education, reactivating teacher-training colleges, and supporting teachers to help them impart their message.

Fadlallah on Elections, Baker Tour, Iran

NC0508100692 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic
24 Jul 92 pp 10, 23

[Interview with 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Journalists Association doyen Milhim Karam—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Karam] What is your stand on the parliamentary elections: Do you support or oppose them, and what are their positive or negative aspects?

[Fadlallah] Far from being political propaganda, elections mean that the people can exercise their will. Elections in a country like Lebanon, in which the Lebanese citizen has lost every chance to express his will for over 20 years, mean that this individual will be given a new opportunity to express his view no matter what it may be—regardless of whether or not these elections are rigged [as published]. Elections mean that the individual will exercise his will and cast his vote, even under the influence of more than one pressure because he has not exercised this right for many years.

Some people have been calling for the postponement of the elections. I do not believe these calls serve the cause of freedom in general. They serve freedom in a certain area and not in Lebanon as a whole. Freedom in Lebanon in the comprehensive sense and in the traditional form of the Lebanese individual's freedom will come about only after the Middle East crisis, to which the Lebanese crisis is organically linked, is resolved. People are now looking for local freedom and not for Lebanese freedom.

On the other hand, some people are speaking about the military presence of a certain party. We all know that the military presence is not the only apparent aspect. The intelligence presence of more than one side has perhaps a greater effect than the military presence. Regional and international interference in Lebanon has a greater effect than the military or intelligence presence. The behind-the-scene interference draws the red lines which no Lebanese is allowed to cross. [passage omitted]

[Karam] Do you expect results from Baker's current tour of the region, especially because it is an important one?

[Fadlallah] Baker's tour is important in the sense that he possesses a new card that he will use to reduce U.S. embarrassment about any concessions it will ask from the Arabs. The United States used to be embarrassed when it asked for concessions from the Arabs while Shamir was in power. Rabin's style is different. He wears silk gloves and speaks beautiful but meaningless words. Baker has come to market the U.S. elections in Bush's favor. It has already been reported that Baker will be in charge of Bush's election campaign. This is not a tour for the sake of peace but for the sake of the U.S. elections. [passage omitted] [Karam] Israel says the resistance operations justify its attacks on the south. What is your view?

[Fadlallah] We say Israel's occupation of the south justifies the resistance operations. Thus, political wrangling over this issue will continue to revolve in a vicious circle.

[Karam] It is being said that there is an Iranian army in Lebanon acting and exercising its influence in the arena. What is your answer?

[Fadlallah] There is no Iranian army in Lebanon in the strict military sense. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard, which undertakes cultural and perhaps training tasks, does have a presence here. This is part of the general regional political game in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Maronite Bishops Council Opposes Elections

NC0508124092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] The Maronite Bishops Council met in Bkirki today under Patriarch Sfayr and issued a statement expressing its regret over the split between the Lebanese people and their rulers. It noted the stifling economic crisis the people are suffering while the rulers are busy preparing for parliamentary elections that interest a few candidates begging anyone's vote.

The statement noted the wrong practices that are the talk of the people, such as hurrying to define the dates of elections before collecting weapons, extending the state's authority throughout Lebanese territory, restoring the confidence of the emigrants, and enabling the displaced people to return to their homes, deleting the names of the dead from election lists, establishing a constitutional court, and dividing the constituencies in a way that does not account for the number of votes a candidate needs to win—100,000 votes for this candidate and 5,000 votes for that one.

The statement said the rulers persist in calling for the elections as if they were irreversible. They ignore the consequences of the elections—striking at national accord and arousing disturbances among the citizens. Certain politicians say the elections are stillborn because those candidates whose names were placed on the list are sure to win. Many wonder about the legal significance of these elections and, consequently, about the significance of the legislation, laws, and decisions that will be passed by a parliament created for purposes that arouse fear and suspicion.

Al-Jumayyil—Election May Be 'Destructive Event'

NC0508075092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Following his meeting with Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah, former President Amin al-Jummayil warned that the election may turn out to be a destructive event. He noted that other challenges confront Lebanon. He pointed out that the national march is facing enormous dangers. He said the election issue must be addressed quickly and conscientiously to harmonize the elections and principles, goals, and aspirations.

Dr. Sa'adah said: We seek to close our ranks to confront the challenges that former President al-Jumayyil mentioned.

PFLP Office Destroyed in Israeli Raid

NC0508111792 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Our correspondent in Tyre reports that two Israeli helicopters fired eight missiles [as heard] on the al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre around 1120 [local time] today. Here is a dispatch from our correspondent Husayn Sa'd:

[Begin Sa'd recording] The south is still being subjected to repeated Israeli attacks. At 1120, five Israeli helicopters raided al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre, targeting a center belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. The helicopters fired nine missiles [as heard], eight of which were directed at the PFLP center. The ninth hit the home of citizen Muhammad al-Sayyid Abu-Faris. Two people were wounded in the raid, which seriously damaged the PFLP center and al-Sayyid Muhammad's shack.

Israeli warplanes flew over the central sector [of the security strip] and Israeli gunboats are still patrolling the coast from the city of Tyre to al-Naqurah.

In another development, an Amal Movement security official Husayn 'Uwadah- was shot in the neck while watching a wrestling match in al-Islah ring in al-Burj

al-Shamali last night. He was taken to the American University hospital in Beirut for treatment for his serious wounds. [end recording]

Al-Sulh on Meetings with U.S., Kuwaiti Envoys

NC0508064392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh visited President al- Hirawi last night and reviewed latest developments. On meetings with the American and Kuwaiti ambassadors, Prime Minister al-Sulh said: The U.S. ambassador visited me and we discussed at length the situation in southern Lebanon and the need to support Lebanon to liberate its land in the south and implement Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, Jazzin, and western al-Biqa'. We also discussed the efforts being made to hold the peace conference, which, as everyone knows, aims to implement Resolutions 242 and 338. We also discussed economic issues.

Al-Sulh said: The Kuwaiti ambassador and I discussed bolstering the Lebanese economy and I gave him a message to this effect for Kuwaiti Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al- Sabah. The Kuwaiti ambassador briefed me on the aid Kuwait has sent to Lebanon. We will discuss this aid at the cabinet meeting on Wednesday morning, he added.

Afghanistan

Dozens of Rockets Hit Kabul, End Cease-Fire

BK0408163492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1626 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Kabul, Aug 4 (AFP)—Dozens of rockets slammed into the Afghan capital at dusk Tuesday, ending a shortlived cease-fire between forces allied with the government and those of hardline Mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Several rockets landed by the Tepae Bemaru Hill where Uzbek militia under General Abdol Rashid Dostam have a gun emplacement, ending the cease-fire that started at 4.00 p.m. Sunday after Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami faction had fired more than 150 rockets and shells onto the city. The firing began at around 7.00 p.m. (1430 GMT) and was continuing more than an hour later.

Some 13 civilians were killed and more than 90 wounded in Sunday's attack, which was condemned by interim president Borhanoddin Rabbani in a speech Monday to Mojahedin commanders.

Rabbani, whose government has been struggling to establish security in this city of 1.5 million people, warned that force would be used to prevent further attacks by the Hezb and that Afghanistan's Islamic government would not permit instability.

The Hezb has been demanding the ouster from the city of Dostam's forces, which formerly fought against the Mojahedin until they switched sides to join with Ahmed Shah Mas'ud, now Afghanistan's defence minister, shortly before the downfall of the former Soviet-backed regime.

The Uzbeks have refused to leave their strategic positions across the city, saying they are now part of the government's forces.

A committee formed from representatives of the Defence Ministry, Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami and another faction of the Hezb-e-Eslami was set up after Sunday's rocket fire to investigate the attack and monitor the cease-fire.

'Clouds of War' Over Kabul

LD0408203392 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Esteemed Ostad Qarib Rahman Sayeed, press officer of the prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, said at a news conference in Peshawar on 2 August that Kabul has become a powder keg. [Words indistinct] Armed Forces are trying to ignite this powder keg. He added that the defamed remnants of the communist regime and supporters of Babrak Karmal, the seller of the nation, want Kabul to burn. Ostad Sayeed said that thousands of armed men have arrived recently in Kabul and more are arriving. Ostad Sayeed said: Regretfully, Ahmad Shah Masud stands by those militia and relies on them. Sayeed added that there is a great deal of insecurity in Kabul city and that no one feels safe and secure. He added that Hezb-e Eslami is trying with all its might to bring unity among mojahed forces, and contrary to the false propaganda of some self-interested circles, it is making sincere efforts to restore peace and security to our beloved homeland.

The prime minister's press officer said: Regretfully the clouds of war are hanging over the city and, God forbid, if (?this war breaks out) it will be terrifying and lethal. He blamed this situation on those foreign countries which interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan for their own specific purposes.

He added that Ostad Abdol Sabur Farid, the prime minister of the transitional government wants to send delegations very soon to Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and to some other countries. In conclusion, he said that there is another element seeking a deterioration in situation. Right now, Mahmud Baryalai, a senior official of Najib's regime and Babrak Karmal's brother, has at his disposal guest house belonging to the prime minister [as heard] to use for the disruption of the situation.

Council Speaker Urges Trial for Babrak, Najib

LD2907224192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Quoting a reliable source, a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports that serious discussions took place between some leaders in Kabul a few days ago about the question of a trial for Najib. It has been said that the leader of Harakat-e Eslami and speaker of the Leadership Council, Shaykh Asef Mohseni, have proposed that both Babrak and Najib—one of whom [Babrak Karmal] is guilty of high treason and the other [Najib] is a criminal—face trial. This action, on the one hand, will be the sign of the victory of the jihad and, on the other, will be the manifestation of the feelings of our nation.

The report adds that when Shaykh Asef Mohseni proposed that Babrak should also be tried, Ostad Rabbani remained silent. Observers believe the reason for Ostad Rabbani's silence is a number of protocols that have been signed between the remnants of the communist regime and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in the north of the country.

Communist Rule in Government Rejected

LD0508083292 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Esteemed Mawlawi Khales, leader of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, has said that he resolutely

demands the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan. Esteemed Mawlawi [Khales] has openly stated that we will never allow the remnants of the previous communist regime in the Islamic government. He added that responsibility for the present clashes rests with the Defense Ministry. That ministry is attempting to bring the Ministry of Internal Affairs and [word indistinct] other ministries under its control.

Mawlawi Khales added that all affairs of the Ministry of Defense are presently in the hands of communists, those who have shed the blood of thousands of Afghans for 14 years and are the main culprits for all the destruction in the country. He said that the remnants of the previous communist regime are trying to have a part in our Islamic government. However, Islamic Jehadi formations are never ready for such an act.

Minister Comments on Saudi Arabia Visit

LD3107014192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jul 92

[Text] Esteemed Mohammad Siddique Chaxri, acting minister of the Ministry of Information and Culture, returned to Kabul today, following his visit to Saudi Arabia. His visit there followed an invitation from the Saudi Ministry of Information and Culture.

Commenting on the results of his visit, esteemed Chaxri said that Saudi Arabia eagerly accepted the assessment of the Ministry of Information and Culture on the need for technical equipment and training. Moreover, they pledged to place at the disposal of Afghan authorities, as soon as possible, the technical equipment needed by the Bakhtar Information Agency, radio and television, and government press.

Esteemed Chaxri was welcomed at Kabul Airport by several ministers, including deputy ministers from the Ministry of Culture and Information, Radio, TV, and BIA leaders, and members of the leadership delegation from his own ministry.

Bangladesh

Army Officers Dismissed for Aiding Ershad

BK0408160592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] The Bangladesh Government has dismissed several senior Army officers, including a former chief of military intelligence, for allegedly trying to help deposed President General H.M. Ershad to continue in power toward the end of his regime. An Army court of inquiry found them guilty of abusing their offices when they made futile attempts to foil the popular mass movement in 1990 that eventually toppled General Ershad. The Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, in an order last week had terminated their services.

Foreign Minister Returns From France, Spain Visit

BK0308160092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman returned to Dhaka today after a week-long visit to Paris and Madrid. Talking to newsmen at the airport, the foreign minister said France will use its good offices to mobilize international support to persuade Myanmar [Burma] for taking back the Rohingya refugees as soon as possible. He said France has also assured him other assistance in finding a solution to the refugee problem.

The foreign minister, who also visited Madrid, said he discussed bilateral matters, particularly the expansion of trade, with his Spanish counter.

Russian Repayment Agreement Signed

BK0308161692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Bangladesh will receive 12 million pound sterling equivalent to 900 million takas from Russia under the Russian credit repayment program for this year. A letter of exchange was signed in Dhaka recently between the Governments of Bangladesh and Russia following a eight-day detailed discussion during the visit of a six-member Russian delegation. During the discussion between the two sides, it was decided that the Russian Federation will import from Bangladesh items like raw jute, jute goods, jute clothes, and a number of other commodities. The Russian delegation also submitted a technical and commercial proposal for establishment of 100 MW [megawatt] gas turbine power plant.

Concern Expressed Over Bosnia-Hercegovina

BK0408160392 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Bangladesh has expressed serious concern at the worsening situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today Bangladesh fully supports the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council at the extraordinary session of the ICFM [Islamic Countries Foreign Ministers] held in Istanbul as well as other peace efforts. [sentence as heard]

The spokesman called upon the Serbian authorities to respect the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Hercegovina and withdraw its forces from that country. He also called for return of Bosnian refugees to their homeland and peaceful solution of the internal political differences of various communities in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The spokesman urged the UN secretary general and the president of the Security Council to consider taking further effective steps to immediately end the bloodshed and peacefully resolve the issue.

India

Finance Minister Rejects Demand for Resignation

BK0408040592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has firmly turned down the demand for his resignation on the security scam issue, asserting there are no skeletons in the cupboard. He categorically stated in the Lok Sabha last night that if any member has any evidence against him, let it be passed on to the leader of the opposition whose verdict he will abide by. Dr. Manmohan Singh also emphatically said it is not his intention to shield anybody in the Reserve Bank of India [RBI]. He said the joint parliamentary committee which is to probe the scam will find out if anything wrong has been done in the RBI.

Replying to the marathon debate on the multi-crore-rupee security scam initiated on the ninth of last month by Mr. Jaswant Singh, the minister said special audit of securities transactions of four foreign banks has been ordered, which is in progress. He assured the house that the government will pursue matters, whether concerning Indian or foreign banks or individual bankers. He said if anybody has committed any fraud or is found guilty of violating FERA [Foreign Exchange Regulations Act] laws, he will be dealt with sternly.

Admitting that the irregularities could not be detected for a long time, Dr. Singh said the RBI should have been a little more alert. He said there were violations of guidelines issued by the RBI in July last year by individual banks, but these went undetected.

Strongly refuting the allegation that liberalization has led to large-scale securities and stock scam, Dr. Manmohan Singh said the tight money market regime pursued by the previous government led to the banks falling short of funds. This resulted in a large increase in the securities transactions among various banks, and, in the process, there was misuse and defiance of various requirements. Pointing out that wild charges against the bureaucracy could demoralize it, Dr. Manmohan Singh said the finance secretary's conduct is absolutely aboveboard and he takes full responsibility for the conduct of any other official in his ministry.

The house witnessed repeated interruptions during the finance minister's reply and certain remarks by him drew angry protests from the left parties and the National Front members. They later staged a noisy walkout.

Parliament Condemns Massacre in Uttar Pradesh

BK0408100092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, today asserted in the Lok Sabha that the center is providing maximum possible assistance to the Uttar Pradesh [UP] government in tackling militancy in the state. Sharing the concern expressed by all sections in the house over the dastardly killings in Pilibhit, UP, he said over 40 companies of paramilitary forces have been provided to the state and whatever maximum number of modern weapons could be given have been provided. The minister told the house that the government will make a statement on the incident, possibly by tomorrow, after collecting information from the state government.

Earlier, raising the issue during zero hour, Mr. Mohan Singh, Janata Dal, blamed the UP police and the intelligence agencies for failure to give timely information about the increasing militant activities in the Tarai region. Mr. L.K. Advani and other BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] said the UP government wants more forces and more modern weapons to deal with militant activity. They also demanded that the issue to be discussed with the Nepal Government and sealing of the Indo-Nepalese border [sentence as heard]. A suggestion was made for calling a meeting of the terrorist-infested states to chalk out a coordinated strategy to check militancy.

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned for 15 minutes after the house witnessed uproarious scenes over the Pilibhit killings of 29 persons. The matter was raised by Mr. J.P. Mathur, BJP, during the zero hour, who said the center should send additional companies of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] to UP for curbing terrorism. Members from all parties condemned increasing terrorism in different parts of the country. They wanted the center to have consultations with the state governments and evolve a national policy to fight terrorism.

Invoking Security Act in Nagaland Defended

BK3107065192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 31 Jul 92

[TIMES OF INDIA's Parson Sabhalkar commentary]

[Text] The decision of the governor's administration to invoke the National Security Act 1980 in the trouble-torn border state of Nagaland has not come a day too soon. There have been reports for quite some time of considerable mobilization by the underground forces and the latest official measure is clearly a response to this. Special powers have been conferred on all deputy commissioners in the state, particularly the officials in Dimapur on the Assam-Nagaland boundary. Dimapur has all along been a major transit point of insurgents and their contact persons not only in Nagaland, but virtually every northeastern state. Reports speak of the two factions of the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland [NSCN] spreading their activities throughout the state. Besides, the S.S. Kaplang faction is reported to have forged links with the Chin National Front based in neighboring Burma. The new feature has been that the insurgents and their sympathizers, who were till recently confining themselves to the jungles or inaccessible terrain had come out into the open and carrying out their activities, including drills and training camps. This week

the Army and Assam Rifles carried out a joint operation in Pulomi, southeast of (Jaluki) in Kohima District, and busted a major center of the NSCN. A similar operation was conducted in (Eaunch Kumao) in the Mau Division of Manipur bordering Nagaland. This indicates the resourcefulness and the base the insurgents have among the local people.

As the state governor, Mr. Loknath Mishra, had stated after Nagaland was brought under president's rule, efforts will be made to rid the state of corruption and take definite steps against the insurgents. Operations against the insurgents are to be backed up by moves to bring them to the negotiated solution. Elections are expected to be held in Nagaland by the end of this year and it is reasonable to expect that the governor's administration would leave behind a much better situation vis-a-vis insurgency and the probity in public life. Indications are that leaders of some factions of underground groups, especially the Khuda group of the Naga National Council, are genuinely interested in holding talks with the government for an equitable solution to the Naga political problem. It would be in the interest of the country not to ignore such overtures and have a clear well-defined policy on the subject. The decision to invoke the National Security Act has been viewed as part of these efforts and is likely to improve the situation at the ground level.

Minister Opposes Action Against Camps in Pakistan

BK0108155692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] The Government is considering strengthening of the Central Bureau of Investigation in view of the increase in economic offenses. This was stated by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, at meet the press program at Varanasi today.

Mr. Chavan said he does not favor direct action to dismantle the training centers for militants in Pakistan.

The home minister said that terrorism in the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh should be contained with the same force as it is tackled in Punjab. He assured the Uttar Pradesh government of the central assistance to deal with the menace of terrorism.

Colombo Handling of Ethnic Issue Criticized

BK0108133092 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1010 GMT 1 Aug 92

[H.S. Saraswat commentary]

[Text] The attempts of Sri Lankan Government to solve the ethnic problem by undermining or rejecting India-Sri Lanka accord have so far failed to bring peace in the island. The accord signed between the then prime minister, Sri Rajiv Gandhi, and President Jayewardene five years ago is still relevant, rather remains the only viable basis for an all-round settlement of the island's protracted ethnic conflict. Both Sinhalese hardliners and Tamil militants though loved to hate the accord as they have failed to solve the ethnic problem by all-party conference or by political parties conference [sentence as heard]. Even a select committee of parliament has failed to deliver the goods. The Tamil political leaders in Sri Lanka now feel that the optimism generated by the leaders signing the accord five years ago has turned into despair since the withdrawal of Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] in March 1990.

Both Sinhalese chauvinism and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militarism combined to make the prospects of any settlement bleak. On one side are the Sinhalese political parties [which] whipped up chauvinism in a bid to prevent any concessions to the minorities. On the other, the Premadasa government was not strong enough to implement any decision. The military helped by the cadres of People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, PLOTE, is still fighting the LTTE in the northeast but have not been able to make any decisive victory. After signing of the accord, the Colombo government was unwilling to implement the devolution package in the accord. It rather sought to dilute the process and compelled IPKF to withdraw from the island.

If we look back to the five years we can see that the Sri Lankan Government was not ready to concede anything more than the provincial councils as envisaged in the accord, nor had the LTTE been militarily or politically capable of extracting. One can apportion the blame on President R. Premadasa for this as he was stoutly opposed to the accord throughout. In his eagerness to get the IPKF off the island, Mr. Premadasa embraced the Tigers who later took him for a long ride. Mr. Premadasa's biggest blunder was in handing over the north and east to the LTTE when the IPKF left. The net result has been the death of about 3,000 police and the security force personnel and estimated 10,000 rebels and thousands of civilians apart from many more being rendered homeless since the Eelam war second [as heard] broke out less than three months after the IPKF left.

After all this bloodshed, Sri Lanka is still today as far from the military or political solution to the crisis as it was when it was started. The accord, if properly implemented, can still provide a framework for ethnic reconciliation. At one stage, the accord has led to the enactment of legislation to end the problem of statelessness of the Tamil plantation workers of Indian origin and to grant Tamil the status of official language along with the Sinhalese and the 13th amendment to the Constitution, paving the way for the devolution of powers to the provincial councils.

The change of government in Sri Lanka and the lack of faith by the president is primarily responsible for the lack of implementation of the accord. The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Harold Herath, is on record as saying that the country should build on what he called the

positive aspects of the accord to reach the settlement for the conflict. Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, a former minister, is now leader of a breakaway group of the ruling party, who is also an architect of the accord, has recently called for its honest implementation and said that 13th amendment should be refined where necessary. If the country is incapable of solving the problem and the present blood-letting continues, another international intervention, this time not necessarily from India, is not ruled out.

Iran

UN Envoy Denies 'Rumors' on CW Production

LD0508091792 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi Tuesday denied renewed allegations that Iran intends to produce chemical weapons and ballistic missiles, saying that the Zionist regime is behind spreading these rumors.

Iran's nuclear activities and researches are carried out under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, he said, adding that IAEA inspectors are free to travel to any part of Iran at any time they desire to inspect its installations. Speaking to IRNA, Kharrazi said that the Zionist regime intends to regain its strategic status in the region by creating fears about Iran in the region.

A report released in Los Angeles by the 'Simon Wiesenthal' Center on Monday claimed that Iran, Syria, and Libya were utilising the West's dual-use (military and non-military) technology to build chemical weapons and ballistic missiles. The author of the report, Kenneth Timmerman, warns that unless Western nations halt the flow of technology, Iran will probably produce a nuclear bomb within five or six years.

Referring to the dependence of the institute on the Zionist regime, Kharrazi said that Israel is behind publication of these baseless and false reports. He said the Zionist regime lost its strategic importance to the West after the Persian Gulf war and the downfall of the Eastern bloc, adding that Zionists were trying to regain their lost status by creating panic about Iran and spreading these baseless reports.

He said that the U.S. military industries which had links with the Zionist regime took advantage of the issue and boosted their arms sale through causing panic and creating an arms race in the region. He stressed that the report of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and similar others were not valid because instead of relying on findings of recognised international organisations which control arms in various countries, they depend on false reports spread by opposition groups and newspapers which could not be considered as reliable sources by any means. This Zionist center has even mocked the reports of IAEA inspectors who have conducted researches in Iran, saying that they had been taken to the wrong sites.

Iran's policy vis-a-vis nuclear arms is completely clear, the UN envoy said, adding that Tehran never intended to possess nuclear arms but to utilise the technology for non-military, medical and peaceful purposes. He stressed that Iran is a victim of chemical weapons itself and has been an active member in the codification of the Geneva Convention banning production, deployment, and stockpiling of chemical weapons. He added that Iran does not need nor has any program to produce chemical weapons.

Iran's conventional arms were seriously damaged during the Iraqi imposed war (1980-1988) and due to sanctions Iran did not have the chance to replace them during the war-time, Kharrazi said. Iran's first 5-year plan envisages revitalisation of defence arms and Iran's purchases are in this framework, he said. These purchases comprise only 1.3 percent of Iran's gross national products and compared with other regional countries which allocate even up to 20 per cent of their gnp [gross national product] to arms purchase, this figure is very small, he concluded.

Velayati Rejects Allegations

AU0408140192 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 31 Jul 92 pp 1-2

[Udo Ulfkotte report on interview with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran on 29 July—"Iran Is Not Developing Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] Tehran, 30 July—"I categorically reject the allegation that Iran is developing nuclear weapons." This was stated by Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati in an interview for this newspaper. Tehran does not need to develop or buy nuclear weapons, because they are "useless." Alluding to the disintegrated Soviet Union, the Iranian foreign minister said before his departure for Rome that several countries that had nuclear weapons in the past are now seeking a way to get rid of them and had asked the West for money to finance destroying these weapons; therefore, it is "a silly policy if some countries" are "still" striving "for the possession of nuclear weapons." For this reason, Iran decided not to develop nuclear weapons. In contrast, Western secret services reported that by the end of the decade Iran will be technically able to test nuclear weapons of its own. In Tehran a team from Kazakhstan is working on the development of nuclear weapons. A nuclear expert who emigrated from the former Soviet Union to Israel recently moved to Tehran, because he only found work as a street-sweeper in Israel, it was stated. Velayati rejected these allegations and added: "We also have a negative attitude toward chemical weapons and biological weapons." After World War II, Iran became the first victim of chemical weapons because of Iraq, Velayati said. He condemned the help of some German enterprises for Iraq's production of chemical weapons.

According to Velayati, Chancellor Kohl will presumably visit "Tehran" before the end of the year, "but by next spring at the latest." By that time, it will also have been decided when Iranian President Rafsanjani will visit the FRG. Velayati said that the results of his last visit to Bonn were "good."

The Iranian foreign minister, who has been in office since 1981, stated that today Tehran no longer feels militarily threatened by Baghdad. Iraq "tested Iran during the eight years of war, and our people admirably resisted during these eight years." Velayati rejected the allegation that Iranian units crossed the Iraqi border in connection with the Shiite uprisings after the Gulf war in March last year and helped the Shiites. Iran only provided "humanitarian help: "From the beginning of the Gulf crisis onward, we opened our borders for the Iraqi refugees. During these days when the Iraqis were threatened by the Iraqi Government on the one hand and the allies' aggression on the other, we opened our borders to the innocent Iraqi people and accommodated more than 1 million refugees."

Now, the people in Iraq must be able to decide their fate. Velayati explicitly rejected any foreign intervention in Iraq.

Answering the question of how much the Islamic Republic of Iran supports fundamentalist groups in other Arab states, the 47-year-old foreign minister, who—together with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is regarded as a representative of a more pragmatic course—said: "It is only natural that we support Muslim countries. We have fraternal relations with most of the Muslim states, with Sudan, just as with Morocco." But it is not true that Iran is provoking Muslims in these countries or is encouraging them to fight against non-Muslims. With a view to the bloody riots in Algeria and the prohibition of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Velayati said: "We did not call on the Muslims there to fight against the government. What is happening in Algeria has deeper causes. This is a conflict between the government and the people." The rumors that Iran is supporting the Algerian fundamentalists are "only a pretext for the Algerian Government to take tough action against the Muslims in revolt. If they say that the fundamentalists are supported from abroad, they want to justify the oppression of these people in this way." But this allegation is not true, Velayati said.

At one time the Iranian foreign minister, who was born in Tehran, studied in San Francisco and practiced as a child specialist there for some years. He is regarded as an extraordinarily pious Muslim, who had close contacts with revolution leader Ayatollah Khomeyni after the overthrow in Iran. In late 1981, former Iranian Prime Minister Musawi took him into his cabinet as foreign minister. Velayati was one of the few nonclerics in the inner circle of the Iranian leadership. He annoyed many fundamentalists by dismissing all too radical advocates of a strict Islam from diplomatic service. In this way, he came closer to "pragmatist" Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who became president of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1989. Thanks to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's and Velayati's moderate policy , Iran's relations with the Western states have improved.

Answering the question about the objectives that Tehran is pursuing in the Muslim republics that were newly established after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Velayati said: "We want to create a peace zone. Iran can act as a stabilizing factor in this region." On the one hand, one has made political contacts with all newly established republics—even the non-Muslim ones. On the other, Tehran advocates intensified economic cooperation. The objective is the creation of a future "joint Islamic economic market according to the example of the EC." Therefore, the relations with the states bordering the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf have been intensified. "The principle of our policy is regional cooperation," Velayati said; therefore, Iran is maintaining contacts with all groups in war-torn Afghanistan. "Since the overthrow of Najibullah, we have carried out about 70 transport flights from Meshed to Herat and from Tehran to Kabul. Thus, we also have good relations with all groups in Afghanistan," the Iranian foreign minister said.

For the Islamic Republic of Iran, one of the most pressing domestic policy questions is the reduction of the high birthrate. Three to four years ago it was still 3.7 percent. If this trend had continued, "we would have had a dramatic increase in population," Velayati said. Therefore, two years ago, a campaign to reduce the birthrate was started with the previously obtained consent of revolution leader Khomeyni, who died in 1989. Now it has been reduced to about 2.7 percent. Abortion continues to be prohibited in Iran, but contraceptives are allowed and also desired. Velayati admitted that this course of action cannot be reconciled with the Catholic view of the world, but he stated that reducing the birthrate does not contradict the idea of Islam.

Daily Criticizes Kuwait's 'Unfriendly Gestures'

LD0408083192 Tehran IRNA in English 0636 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—Iran will have to regard Kuwait's instigative act of engaging in a joint maneuver with the U.S. in the Persian Gulf region as "unfriendly gestures," said an Iranian daily Tuesday.

The editorial in the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' said "The maneuver by the American forces is taking place at a time when, contrary to the baseless claims by Washington, there is no trace of destabilizing factor in the region."

Washington has announced that 2,400 troops would be despatched to Kuwait within three weeks as part of the forces taking part in the maneuver.

"The Kuwaiti Government...should realize that at the moment the region is in need of peace and the absence of

agitating factors in order to engage in the reconstruction of the ruins left behind by the Iraqi invasion of Iran and Kuwait."

The paper stressed, "Although we condemn Iraq's ludicrous territorial claims on Kuwait, we believe that the Iraqi regime is so weakened that such pronouncements should not be taken seriously."

"Security in the Persian Gulf should be safeguarded only by the countries in the region which have more or less similar cultural and economic structures."

"Assuming that any foreign power could ensure security in the Persian Gulf there is every reason to believe that security would not be in keeping with the national interests of any country in the region," it argued.

"In compensation for preserving peace in the region, the foreign power will demand cheap oil which forms the main foreign exchange revenue source of all of the countries in the region and the principal foundation of their economies."

"In view of all this Iran will have to regard such instigative acts as unfriendly gestures," concluded TEHRAN TIMES.

Daily Views Kuwait's U.S-Backed Security

LD0208083692 Tehran IRNA in English 0743 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—The Persian daily 'ABRAR' Sunday said that lack of a spirit of cooperation among the Arab states and belief in unreal threats insinuated by the West caused "the emergence of Saddam Husayn in the region."

Commenting on the fears of the West from the spread of the Islamic Revolution, the morning daily said that the Iraqi invasion of Iran in 1980 pleased all the actors in the world scene who armed Baghdad up to its teeth.

Iraq was checked in Iran and consequently the defeated but well-equipped Iraq had no alternative but to occupy Kuwait, the paper added.

When the Iraqis were busy celebrating their victory in Kuwait, the Persian Gulf Arab leaders realized that firstly Iran is not the country which threatens the security of the Persian Gulf and secondly the (Persian) Gulf Security Council or any other alliance cannot do anything without effective cooperation among all the littoral states.

The Persian Gulf war was the best opportunity and pretext for the U.S. presence in the region, it said, however, Washington was aware of the fact that it cannot stay long in the region. But it said the U.S. could not disclose its findings as it did not want to face any difficulty.

What the Persian Gulf sheikhs have not thought about regarding security arrangements is to search for security outside the Persian Gulf. "In other words, should the necessary mechanisms with appropriate structures for extensive cooperation among all the regional states be found, the region's security would be provided. Otherwise the presence of 2,500 U.S. soldiers or launching joint military maneuvers or arms purchases are not the proper remedy."

"The Kuwaiti leaders cannot guarantee that another Saddam Husayn would not emerge among other regional Arab states, because lack of a spirit of cooperation among them and conviction in fears that the West has insinuated, like the fear from the Islamic Revolution caused emergence of Saddam Husayn."

The paper in conclusion cast doubt that the U.S. will overlook the Kuwaiti oil wells to guarantee non-repetition of the events of 1991 and asked, "can the Kuwaiti people accept the American-provided independence?"

Russian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Visits

Discusses Expanding Ties

LD0108105392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Heading a delegation, Petr Aven, the Russian foreign economic relations minister, arrived in Tehran today. During a meeting with the Iranian economic and finance minister, Mohsen Nurbakhsh, he disclosed Russian President Yeltsin's views about the importance he regards talks with Iran and Russia's deep interest in the overall expansion of ties between both countries.

Mr. Nurbakhsh, referring to the political and geographical changes in the region, enumerated the grounds for bilateral cooperation in various areas, such as industry; mining; transportation; energy; oil and gas; shipping; ecology; science and technology, and called for expanding further ties between both countries and the organization of cooperation with other neighboring states.

During its two-day stay in Tehran, the delegation will hold talks with Iranian authorities about banking, financial, and scientific cooperation.

Discusses Power Plant Construction

LD0208094992 Tehran IRNA in English 0728 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—Promotion of Tehran-Moscow ties and construction of new power stations were discussed in a meeting of the visiting Russian Minister of Foreign Trade Petr Aven and Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh here Saturday [1 Aug].

Necessary decisions were made on the implementation of the undertakings of the Russian companies which have contracts with Iran's Energy Ministry.

Aven, heading a delegation, arrived here Saturday on a two-day visit.

Discusses Relations With Velayati

NC0408062292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati and Petr Aven, Russia's foreign economic relations minister, discussed Tehran-Moscow relations and important regional and world developments during a meeting yesterday afternoon. Velayati pointed out the need to expand bilateral relations in every field, stating: Shared natural and geographic elements, especially the Caspian Sea, mean that Iran and Russia can—in addition to their bilateral political and economic cooperation—establish comprehensive and useful cooperation with other regional countries in the political, economic, commercial, cultural, environmental, fishing, and transportation fields.

Aven referred to his country's wish to further expand relations with Iran, saying: We consider Iran important, a reliable partner, and believe that cooperation and friendship between both countries will be lasting and continuous. Explaining his country's current political and economic process, he said: Russia wants Tehran-Moscow cooperation to increase, particularly in the commercial and economic fields.

Financial Disputes Settled

LD0408175692 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—Financial disputes between Iran and the former Soviet Union were settled today after three days of talks between visiting Russian Minister of Foreign Trade Petr Aven and Iran's Minister of Economy and Finance Mohsen Nurbakhsh.

Russia agreed to pay the former Soviet Union's loans to Iran and abide by the obligations of the then economic and trade agreements between the two sides.

The two officials also reviewed the Soviet's claims on Iran and agreed on the procedure of repayment.

It was decided to establish a joint expert committee to probe into all economic and trade accords reached between the two sides and survey financial claims of their respective organs.

Based on the talks, all transactions between the two parties will be carried out according to the open market exchange rates, unless the respective firms and organizations agree to jeal on barter basis.

The Iranian and Russian ministers also agreed to expand their cooperation in the fields of industry, trade and energy.

Aven left Tehran for Moscow early today.

Gambian President, Delegation Pay Visit 3 Aug

LD0308114492 Tehran IRNA in English 0853 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Gambian President Dawda Kairaba Jawara arrived here Monday heading a high-ranking delegation on a 4-day official visit to explore avenues to bolster mutual brotherly ties.

Jawara and his entourage, including Minister of External Affairs Omar Sey and Minister of Economic Planning and Industrial Development Memba Jatta, were welcomed at the airport by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji.

After listening to their national anthems the two presidents reviewed the honor guard.

Speaking to reporters, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran's general policy was based on cooperation with world countries, especially Islamic states, adding that Iran can have all-out cooperation with Gambia—a country with Muslims constituting 90 percent of its population.

Referring to bilateral cooperation in oil, fishery, mines and various other fields of trade, he said that Iran and Gambia can be good partners in international issues. He also hoped that the visit of the Gambian president would be a turning point in mutual Tehran-Banjul ties.

Jawara said that his visit is a brotherly and friendly one aimed at strengthening mutual ties in various grounds.

He expressed hope that the two countries could step up their cooperation in oil and fishery. He also urged Iran to help the Gambia in oil area by dispatching oil experts to that country.

On the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, he said the world of Islam was concerned about the situation in that republic where an ethnic group was brutally slaughtering Muslims. He expressed hope that the United Nations and European countries would take effective steps to stop this brutality and that Islamic countries would realise how to utilise their efforts in this connection.

Jawara Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0308173492 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—First round of talks between President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his Gambian counterpart Dawda Kairaba Jawara were held here on Monday.

Jawara, who arrived in Tehran earlier today on a 4-day visit, briefed Hashemi-Rafsanjani on developments and problems in Africa, especially in Liberia, Somalia and South Africa.

He also expressed regret over the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina at the hands of the Christian Serbs, and the current problems in Afghanistan.

The Gambian official called for Iran's "extensive cooperation" with his country in the areas of oil drilling and energy, and also sought the Islamic Republic's assistance in the fisheries sector.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani deplored the state of affairs in Somalia, where the internecine clashes were inflicting high life and material losses. He was also highly critical of the Pretoria regime for its tyranny and injustice in South Africa.

"Such problems should be settled within the framework of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), he added.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the events in Palestine and the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, were being done with the tacit approval of the Western powers, and described them as "disastrous" for Muslims and humanity as a whole.

He called for mediation efforts by international bodies and Islamic Governments, especially the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) and the OIC, to put an end to the problems.

The Iranian president welcomed expansion of Tehran-Banjul cooperation, especially in the fields of oil drilling and exploration and fisheries.

Jawara's high-ranking delegation includes Gambia's Minister of External Affairs, Omar Sey, and Minister for Economic Planning and Industrial Development, Memba Jatta.

Muslims constitute 90 percent of the West African country's population.

Oil, Economic Cooperation Discussed

LD0408124992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] This morning, the Gambian minister of industries, commerce, and energy [as heard], Memba Jatta, and the Iranian oil minister examined ways of promoting oil and economic cooperation this morning. During his meeting with Oil Minister Aqazadeh-Kho'i, Jatta pointed to Iran's vast experience in oil exploration and extraction and requested Iranian experts' cooperation in oil exploration and extraction in Gambia. He also asked to purchase 100,000 barrels of crude oil per day [BPD] from Iran.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i—having remarked about Iran's policies and objectives based on expanding oil and economic cooperation with the Third World countries, particularly Muslim countries—expressed hope that both countries will achieve positive results about the issues discussed, such as oil exploration and extraction in Gambia and exporting oil to that country. Concluding the meeting, it was decided that experts from both sides should study the details of the agreed projects to adopt practical measures.

Jawara Meets With Velayati

LD0408211492 Tehran IRNA in English 1203 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—Visiting Gambian President Dawda Kairaba Jawara discussed major international issues and his country's relations with the Islamic Republic with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here Tuesday.

Velayati briefed the Gambian president on the "sensitive" situation in the region, Iran's growing ties with its neighbors and the "painful" situation of Muslims in the embattled former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He also reiterated the Islamic Republic's policy of expanding ties with African states and of supporting the South African people in their fight against racial discrimination.

The foreign minister called for an international effort to be made to form an independent South Africa in which the rights of the majority blacks would be observed.

Lashing out at the Zionist regime for its crimes against the Palestinian people, Velayati reaffirmed Iran's full support for the Intifadah (Palestinian uprising).

The Gambian president, too, strongly condemnd the massacre of Muslims in B-H [Bosnia-Hercegovina] Republic and voiced his country's support for the rights of the Palestinian people.

President Jawara stressed that it was necessary for Muslim countries to confront the crimes being committed by the Serbs against the Muslims of B-H Republic.

He termed Iran-Gambia relations and Tehran's role in interaitonal forums as being of "great importance."

In another development today, the Gambian president inspected the "Iran Khodro" car manufacturing plant in Tehran.

Ends Visit 5 Aug; Agreement Signed

LD0508101792 Tehran IRNA in English 0622 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA—Gambian President Dawda Kairaba Jawara wound up his three-day official visit to Iran Thursday morning and was seen off at Tehran International Mehrabad Airport by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Speaking to reporters prior to departure, President Jawara thanked the Iranian nation and government for their hospitality and termed as "fruitful" the outcome of his talks in Tehran. He said that he discussed energy cooperation, purchase of speed boats from Iran as well as international and regional events with the Iranian officials.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 0823 GMT on 5 August, in a Tehran-datelined item, adds: "Gambian President

Dawda Kairaba Jawara met with leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Wednesday morning before winding up his three-day official visit to Iran. Ayatollah Khamene'i said that one of the major aspects of the Iranian foreign policy is to cooperate and establish links with the oppressed Muslim nations in Africa. He also stressed the need for further consolidation of ties among the Islamic countries. The leader added that colonialist and big powers have plundered God-given natural wealth of Africa for long years. He added that the African people deserve to enjoy a favorable living condition and to this end more unity, cooperation and rapproachement of the Muslim nations are needed as a must. He said Iran can help Gambia in oil exploration and expressed hope that many of the problems of the gambian people would be solved as a result of Iran-Gambia cooperation.

"Also present in the meeting were President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and several high-ranking officials of Iran and Gambia. Jawara briefed Ayatollah Khamene'i on the outcome of his talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other Iranian officials and called for further expansion of bilateral cooperation, particularly on employing Iran's economic potentials for oil exploration."]

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0930 GMT on 5 August reports the following on the Gambian president's visit: "The Gambian president and entourage met with Judiciary Chief Yazdi yesterday afternoon. Both countries' judicial systems were discussed during the meeting. Yazdi expressed the hope that he will be able to place Iran's experience in Islamic law at Gambia's disposal.

"At the end of his three-day official visit, Jawara left Iran this morning, with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani seeing him off. At Mehrabad Airport, in an interview with our correspondent, while thanking Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for welcoming him warmly, the Gambian president described his talks in Iran as very fruitful. He said: Economic and commercial cooperation between Iran and Gambia and both countries' cooperation on the international scene were discussed during the trip. We reached favorable agreements in those areas.

"Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: During the Gambian president's and entourage's visit, grounds for cooperation between both countries were reviewed. It was agreed that Iran will help Gambia in exploring and utilizing Gambia's oil resources and in providing Gambia with her energy requirements. Iran is also to cooperate with Gambia in expanding fishing and supplying speed boats. According to this report, the Gambian president left Tehran for Saudi Arabia for pilgrimage. Our correspondent interviewed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani about the outcome of the visit by the high-ranking Gambian delegation to Iran, which will be broadcast in the news reports section.

"Concluding the Gambian president's visit, both countries signed an economic memorandum of understanding. The memorandum, signed by the Iranian commerce minister and the Gambian commerce, industries, and labor minister, calls for cooperation among both countries' chambers of commerce; cooperation in oil and oil sales; patrol boat sales and training to Gambia; and cooperation in the field of fishing. Other points of the memorandum call for cooperation in agriculture-based industries and Gambian participation in Iranian trade fairs."]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Reviews Talks

LD0508124392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Interview with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent at Mehrabad Airport on 5 August following departure of Gambian president and delegation—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani, please tell us what the results were of the talks with the Gambian president and officials.
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: We had a meeting in Senegal with the gentlemen, so we had already carried out our preliminary talks. Then and there we decided to expand ties between both countries.

At my invitation Mr. Jawara and a delegation came to Iran. We surveyed the potential for our cooperation, and we realized that conditions are suitable for cooperation. In the oil industry field, we can give them technical help, such as exploration and oil production. Additionally, we can sell them oil, and they want to buy a part of their oil requirement from Iran, to which we agreed. Both parties signed a memorandum of understanding. Of course, they have other needs, such as patrol boats that we manufacture. They need such boats to patrol their shores and to use them in their rivers. There is potential for fishing and other fields that expert teams—to be exchanged later—will have to talk about.

It seems that it is a good case for applying the policies of the Islamic revolution in Africa, where we can assist less developed countries and those Islamic countries that really need our help. They know that our purpose is to help them, because they can see our goodwill; so they attach importance to such cooperation.

[Correspondent] Did you discuss political and international topics and possibilities for both countries to cooperate in issues related to Muslims?
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, a part of our talks was devoted to these issues. We coordinated our views for the nonaligned conference. There are important topics of mutual interest. In Africa, there are the problems of Somalia, Liberia, and South Africa; in our own region there are the topics of Afghanistan and the Caucasus; in the Balkans there is the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

These were all discussed from the point of view of their Islamic dimension. Fortunately, our views are coordinated. Palestine and Lebanon were other topics we discussed. All of these are issues of the nonaligned [movement], where coordination between Iran and Gambia could be useful.

We also decided to cooperate in these issues on a bilateral level.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Iran Agrees To Supply Sudan With Weapons

PM0408095892 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 1 Aug 92 pp 1, 6

[Drd. 'Ali Nur Zadah report: "Iran Finances Military Deal for Sudan"]

[Text] London—Iran has agreed to supply Sudan with 100 Chinese tanks, a number of medium-range guns, and five F-5 aircraft given up by the Iranian Air Force after the delivery of Russian MiG-29's to Tehran. Iran has also agreed to supply Sudan with a number of 108-mm (mini-Katyushas) and to finance, for Sudan, a military deal with the PRC comprising 20 aircraft, several dozen T-59 tanks, and Silkworm missile batteries that will be installed at the Port Sudan base, being constructed under the supervision of Iranian experts in accordance with the Iranian-Sudanese military agreement. According to informed Iranian sources, Iran has also agreed to ship 2 million barrels of oil to Sudan in the next two months.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that Iranian Intelligence and Security Minister 'Ali Fallahiyan-Khuzestani and Chief of Staff Dr. Fayruz Abadi advised Brigadier General Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, a member of Khartoum's ruling military council, when he was in Tehran last week, that the solution to Sudan's current crisis can be found in overthrowing al-Bashir, with Sulayman himself assuming power.

Habibi Heads Delegation to Syria 5 Aug

NC0508064792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] First Vice President Habibi left for Damascus this morning heading a high-ranking political delegation on an official three-day visit to Syria. During the meeting, within both countries' Joint Committee framework, Habibi will meet high-ranking Syrian officials and discuss bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

Syrian Education Minister Pays Visit 3 Aug

LD0308091892 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug 3, IRNA—Syrian Minister of Education Muhammad Ghassan al-Halabi arrived here Monday morning on a five-day official visit and was greeted at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Mohammad 'Ali Najafi.

Speaking upon arrival, al-Halabi described the objective of his visit as broadening of bilateral relations, in the field of education in particular.

Al-Halabi and Najafi, on behalf of their governments, are to ink a three-year cultural agreement which, as according to Halabi, will pave the way for bilateral cooperation on educational, cultural, endowment, tourism and higher education.

While in Tehran, Halabi is to attend the inauguration ceremony of a students art festival in commemoration of the Palestinian fighters, and tour the historical monuments and educational centers in the ancient city of Isfahan.

Najafi Cited on Relations With Damascus

LD0308154592 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Iran's Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi told his Syrian counterpart here today that Iran attaches importance to Tehran-Damascus relations because Syria is committed to Islamic values in its struggle against the Zionist regime.

He said Iran and Syria shared a common culture and that on that basis the two countries might as well play a more active role in the Muslim world. He added that Muslim states, relying on their rich culture, should, together, campaign against the infiltration of foreign cultures.

Al-Halabi proposed expansion of mutual relations in educational fields including the exchange of academic delegations. He expressed hope to conclude a cultural and academic agreement with Iran during his current visit.

Al-Halabi arrived here Monday morning on a five-day official visit.

Delegation to Visit Bosnia-Hercegovina

LD0508092292 Tehran IRNA in English 0927 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—An Iranian delegation, commissioned by the leader of the Islamic revolution, will be despatched to Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H) soon to look into the status of Muslims there and to deliver humanitarian aid.

The Iranian delegation will be headed by the leader's special envoy Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a member of the Guardians Council, said Iran's Ambassador to Belgrade Nasrollah Kamyab in an interview published in 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' here Tuesday.

Kamyab added that the trip will take place through the Croatian capital of Zagreb and that a large consignment of food and medical aid will be sent to the area along with the delegation.

Asked to comment how much effective were the sanctions imposed by the Security Council against Serbia, the Iranian ambassador said that the extraordinary potential of the Federal Army and production of various weapons inside the country have neutralized the effects of military sanctions.

However, he added, eco-political sanctions had positive impacts. Many countries have summoned their ambassadors from Belgrade, prices have gone up, certain products rationed and the national currency, dinar, has drastically devaluated.

He regretted that the UN resolutions have not been fully implemented and speculated that Romania, Greece, Russia and a number of other countries violate the sanctions.

Kamyab asserted that Belgrade provides the Bosnian Serbs with heavy weaponry and argued that the B-H Serbs have never had artilleries or tanks. "How come such heavy arms have been put at their disposal?" he asked, adding that "this proves the existence of a military link between Serbia and the B-H Serbs."

On the widespread but ineffective popular opposition against the Belgrade government, he said that there is an increasing opposition against the Milosevic government but the reality is that he is a nationalist and many Serbs back him. The Serbian Federal Army, too, is his most significant defender. On the other hand, he added, certain regional countries, including Moscow, one of the leading collaborators of Belgrade, also lend support to Serbia contrary to their claims of observing the U.N. sanctions.

He also lashed out at the U.S. and the European countries for being indifferent towards the genocide of B-H Muslims and for their efforts to stop formation of any Muslim state in Europe.

Of the overall 4.7 million Muslims living in the now dismantled federal Yugoslavia, some 2.3 million live in B-H, Kamyab told JOMHURI-YE, quoting state statistics released before disintegration of the country.

Velayati Calls for ICO Meeting

LD0508104692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] During Iran's continuing efforts to halt the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and to end the war in that country, Foreign Minister Velayati sent a letter to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general calling for a meeting of foreign and defense ministers of member countries to review the dangerous situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The letter reads: Since the international economic sanctions against Serbia have been ineffective, to prevent acts of aggression against Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, it is necessary for the ICO defense and foreign ministers to review the military facilities and strength of their countries in order to defend the innocent Muslims in that area.

Iran-Pakistan Commission Opens Session 1 Aug

LD0108140292 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 1, IRNA—Iranian and Pakistan officials stressed consolidation of Tehran-Islamabad ties during the opening session of the seventh Iran-Pakistan joint commission here Saturday.

Iran's Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia, who arrived here Friday, said that both countries possessed good potentials and capabilities to meet each other's needs.

He added that these potentials should be utilised on joint ventures in Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan.

He expressed hope that promotion of Tehran-Islamabad ties would affect regional cooperation positively.

Turning to historical ties between the two countries, he said that leaders and presidents of the Islamic Republic have always emphasised promotion of overall ties with Pakistan and that reciprocal visits of Iranian and Pakistani officials during the past year indicated the will of both sides to bolster cooperation and relations.

Pakistani Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs, Planning and Development Sartaj Aziz also expressed hope that the joint commission would bring about fruitful results.

Turning to the volume of bilateral trade ties, he called for expansion of economic cooperation between the two countries and increase in trade exchanges.

He stressed that expansion of Tehran-Islamabad ties was of special importance to Pakistan, adding that the meeting will work on various grounds in this connection.

He underscored the following up of the agreements reached during the 1991 joint commission and called for strengthening of cooperation in railways, transportation and exchange of non-oil products.

Meanwhile, in an interview upon arrival here Friday, Sa'idi-Kia stressed that elimination of transportation problems would positively affect economic, trade and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

He said that Iran-Pakistan permanent transportation committee has been set up recently and its proposals will be discussed at the commission's sessions.

The two countries are working out to improve the transporation conditions especially in connection with Quetta-Kerman and Quetta- Zahedan-Kerman railways.

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0930 GMT on 1 August

reports on the meeting, adding: "Minister of Roads and Transport Mr. Sa'idi-Kia met with Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan early this afternoon. Expanding ties in various fields between both countries was discussed during the meeting.]

Letters of Understanding Signed

LD0308180392 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 3, IRNA—Iran and Pakistan inked three letters of understanding on trade, banking, cultural, educational and transport cooperation at the end of their seventh joint economic commission meet here today.

According to the letters signed by Iranian Road and Transport Minister Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia and Pakistani Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz, each party decided to allocate a 50-million-dollar credit to promote and speed up non-oil trade exchanges.

Joint venture and cooperation for the establishment of an oil and gas refinery on the skirts of Pakistan's leading commercial centre and port-city, Karachi, was among the articles of the agreements.

The two sides also decided to set up a joint company for laying the almost 600 km railway track between Bafq (central Iran) and Bandar Abbas (southern Iran), and also agreed to continue their studies on a rail link between the Iranian cities of Kerman and Zahedan (300 kms apart) and the Pakistani city of Quetta (over 600 kms east of Zahedan).

Agreement on operating small markets at the Mirjaveh common border point to faciliate border trade exchanges between the two countries' frontiermen was also predicted in the letters.

The seventh joint commission renewed the mutual cultural agreement and added some new articles to it.

Iran's readiness to participate in the implementation of road projects in Pakistan was welcomed by the Pakistani side, which in return expressed readiness to cooperate in sugarcane projects in Iran.

The two ministers termed the seventh joint commission "successful" with Sartaj expressing hope that the approvals of the session would result in further expansion of mutual relations in all areas.

Transport Minister Returns

LD0408090392 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 4, IRNA—Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia returned to Tehran Monday night after concluding several letters of understanding during his 4-day visit.

The agreements signed by Sa'idi-Kia and Pakistani Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs, Planning and Development Sartaj Aziz at the end of the seventh session of Iran-Pakistan joint commission deal with commercial and banking activities, and cooperation in scientific, cultural, educational, communications and transporation areas.

According to one of the agreements, the two countries are to allocate a credit of dlrs. 50 million to speed up and expand non-oil exchanges.

It also envisages joint investment and cooperation to set up an oil and gas refinery in the suburbs of Karachi, in Sind state of Pakistan.

The two sides also agreed to set up a joint company to build the Bafq-Bandar Abbas railways (in southern Iran).

Iran and Pakistan will continue studies on Kerman-Zahedan-Quetta railways. Quetta is located in Pakistan's Baluchestan and Zahedan in Iran's Baluchestan province. Kerman, in southern Iran is connected by railways to Tehran. The project is of great importance transportation-wise.

Joint bazaars will be set up in Mirjaveh border point to accelerate non-oil exchanges between border residents.

The two countries also renewed their cultural agreement and added new articles to it.

Pakistan welcomed Iran's willingness to participate in the road-building projects in that country and voiced eagerness to take part in Iran's sugar cane project.

After signing the letters of understanding, Sa'idi-Kia expressed hope that with regards to the industrial, scientific and cultural potentials of both the countries, the approvals and discussions of the seventh joint commission would further consolidate Tehran- Islamabad ties.

Sartaj Aziz described the meeting as successful and voiced pleasure with its results.

He expressed hope that all-out relations between the two countries would be expanded and trade exchanges would be increased compared with the past.

In another development, Sa'idi-Kia met with Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif Monday afternoon during which the two sides stressed promotion of mutual economic and commercial relations.

They also called for participation of both countries in regional projects, arrangement of suitable ground for cooperation at the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) and expansion of ties with the central Asian republics and Afghanistan.

Afghan Delegation Arrives in Tehran 4 Aug

NC0508060892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] The first provisional Afghan political-economic delegation arrived in Tehran last night and was welcomed by Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania.

'Abdolhayy Elahi, Afghanistan's minister of state for cultural affairs, who is heading the delegation, told our correspondent:

[Begin Elahi recording] The objective behind our visit is to express our gratitude to the Muslim Iranian nation and to the Islamic Republic of Iran for their generous assistance throughout the years of the jihad. Another objective is to prepare for the Afghan president's visit, to make it, God willing, as fruitful as possible. We will also seek some immediate assistance from the Iranian officials and will investigate mutual short- and long-term cooperation between the two nations and governments. [end recording]

Our correspondent reports that the deputy ministers of mines and industry, planning, and health, the director of [Afghan] radio and television, and the official in charge of oil and gas are accompanying the cultural affairs minister on this trip.

Oil Minister Meets With Turkmen Envoy 1 Aug

LD0108120892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Mr. Ata Charyyev, the Turkmen ambassador to Iran, met with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i this morning. The Turkmen ambassador conveyed his country's friendly greetings, expressing a desire to expand bilateral cooperation, and he called for speeding up Iranian natural gas exports via pipelines to Turkmenistan. He proposed that in order to accelerate this task and to become familiarized with the pipeline route—and to exchange views with Iranian experts—an expert group from Turkmenistan should visit the region.

The Iranian oil minister announced Iran's acceptance of the proposal to export Iranian natural gas via pipelines. He reiterated that this task requires close examination by experts to decide the pipeline route, ways and means of investment, and financial incentives provisions. He expressed the hope that the proposal will be implemented after preliminary groundwork and the signing of relevant agreements.

It was decided that an expert group from Turkmenistan would visit our country in the near future to examine the technical aspects of the proposal and the method of cooperation.

Talks With Japan Over Hormuz Project Deadlocked

NC0308140692 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 3 (AFP) - Iran and Japan have reached a deadlock in negotiations to develop offshore oilfields in the Hormuz area at the entrance to the southern Gulf, the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES) reported Monday.

Under a letter of intent signed last year, a full agreement on exploration and development work estimated at around 1.6 billion dollars was to have been finalized by March 1992. But according to MEES sources in Tokyo, negotiations between the National Iranian Petroleum Company [NIOC] and Japex—two-thirds owned by the state-run Japan National Oil Corporation—have reached a deadlock over investment returns.

"The deadlock... is attributable to irreconcilable differences regarding cost factors and the projected return on investment to the Japanese company," the Nicosia-based newsletter said.

It quoted Japanese oil circles as saying Japex ruled out the NIOC's offer of around two percent on investment returns. Although the talks could be revived, the NIOC is now believed to be in contact with other international groups in connection with the Hormuz project, the weekly said.

Quarterly Figures for Non-Oil Exports Detailed

LD0308152992 Tehran IRNA in English 1314 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug 3, IRNA—Quarterly non-oil exports fetched the country dlrs 752 million, an increase of 23.17 percent, it was announced here today.

During the first four months of the current calendar year (March 21-July 22), non-oil exports through sea ports, airports and border customs offices, totalled 865,000 tons.

Hand woven woolen and silken carpets topped the exports list followed by pistachio, garments, hide, copper dishes, shoes and various kinds of vehicles.

Carpet exports alone registered a 16 percent increase, said the report.

Airline Official Denies Presence of Iraqi Planes

LD0108180192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] The first air flight from Kermanshah to holy Mashhad took place today. According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Shafti, director of Iran's airline, said in an interview with our reporter during the inauguration of flights from Kermanshah to holy Mashhad that transferring passengers and eager pilgrims to the shrine of his

holiness 'Ali Ibn-Musa al-Reza, peace be upon him, will be carried out on one flight per week. Each flight will carry 160 passengers to holy Mashhad.

In connection with some Western and Arabic media reports suggesting that Iran is using Iraqi airbuses, he said: There are no Iraqi passenger planes in Iran. There are only six Kuwaiti aircraft of the airbus variety, which entered the Islamic Republic of Iran as Iraqi airbuses. When it became clear that the planes belonged to Kuwait, three of them were returned to Kuwait. The three remaining will be handed over to Kuwait in the near future.

Daily Calls on Iraqi Opposition To Unite

LD0108081992 Tehran IRNA in English 0642 GMT 1 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—An Iranian daily Saturday said that a general and fundamental unity among the Iraqi dissident groups based on clear-cut principles is the prerequisite for persuading the Western countries to revise their policies towards the ruling Baghdad regime.

Referring to the meeting of the Iraqi dissident leaders with the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker earlier this week, the editorial in the English daily TEHRAN TIMES said "the presence of both of the prominent Kurdish leaders, Masud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, in Washington bespeaks their more or less common stances regarding the current events in Iraq."

"At least they both seem to have despaired of holding talks with the Baghdad regime which they have apparently found unreliable."

"If the Iraqi dissident leaders in Washington are expecting the White House to issue orders for the ouster of Saddam, they are in grave error. Washington's policies will be unpredictable and conservative during the few months left to the presidential elections in November."

Noting that U.S. President George Bush is presently lagging behind his electoral rival and consequently may take internatinal risks to attract public attention, the paper stressed, "Still it does not mean that Bush will arrange for the toppling of Saddam without having considered a suitable alternative to the present Baghdad regime."

The editorial said in conclusion, "Acs long as there is disarray in the ranks of the opposition forces, no country would be willing to risk replacing the present regime in Baghdad with the chaotic conditions that might ensue from the fall of the Ba'th Party."

Daily—Turkey Seeks To Annex Iraqi Kurdistan

LD0408085292 Tehran IRNA in English 0652 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—The morning daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' Tuesday regretted the fact that politicians in Turkey cannot realize that any change in the internationally recognized borders in the region will have negative impacts on all regional countries.

The paper commented that recent meetings of Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani with Turkish leaders in Ankara further reflected Turkey's age-old desire to annex the oil-rich Iraqi Kurdestan to Turkey.

"Although Ankara has severely suppressed the Kurdish minority in that country, amazingly, in his meeting with Talabani, President Ozal said last week that relationship between the Turks and Kurds has a historical background. But due to the existence of a single- party rule and absence of democracy in Iraq, there are problems in that country."

However, President Ozal forgot to mention that these difficult circumstances should not be exploited by other states as Turkey has done so in the region for the past 12 years, since the outbreak of the Iraqi imposed war against Iran, in order to improve its shattered economy.

This trend was followed until Iraqi invasion of Kuwait which entailed U.N. sponsored sanctions against Iraq and the subsequent collapse of Baghdad's economy.

Stressing that any change in the borders of regional countries will have adverse consequences, the paper said: "In this respect, it is better for Turkey to realize that disintegration of Iraq means destabilization of the whole region which is not in the interest of any country."

Obviously, Iraq's Saddam Husayn has committed big blunders, the first of which began when he thought that within a week his army could defeat Iran. "But why should the Iraqi nation pay for his errors?"

Commentary Decries U.S. Plan for Regional 'Pact'

NC0208175092 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Jul 92 p 18

[Commentary by Sa'id Khakrand: "From NATO to GULFO"]

[Text] On the anniverary of the martyrdom of Zayn al-'Abidin, peace be upon him, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, said in his meeting with Basijis: "The power of the Islamic system that the United States, the former Soviet Union, and all the big and small powers of the world have been unable and will be unable to confront is the power of the faith of the Hezbollah forces."

We heard on the news that Admiral Taylor, commander of the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf, has called on Persian Gulf southern littoral countries to form a military pact like NATO with U.S. help to prevent aggression by foreign countries (!!) and to name this pact "GULFO."

Some time ago, the United States and its allies, primarily the Zionist regime, undertook an extensive propaganda

campaign against Islamic Iran, alleging that Iran is trying to expand its military industries and that by purchasing advanced weapons, namely equipment for breaking the atom from Belgium, and by hiring nuclear technicians from the former Soviet Union, it is trying to acquire nuclear technology. They even went so far as to propose regional disarmament with the exception of Israel with the sole objective of disarming the Islamic Republic.

The esteemed leader of the revolution commented on this, saying: "For some time now the U.S. and Zionist loudspeakers have been accusing the Islamic Republic of militarization and of massing weapons. They say that the Islamic Republic is manufacturing weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons and that it has imported nuclear warheads from different places!"

The esteemed leader continued: "They create rumors in an effort to portray the Islamic system as being opposed to world peace."

While the United States is proposing regional disarmament and accusing Iran of militarization, we are witnessing the massive sale of advanced weapons by the United States and the West to other regional countries. Following the conclusion of the Persian Gulf crisis, Saudi Arabia has purchased $14.8 billion of weapons from the United States to date. These weapons include 150 F-25 fighters and 150 U.S. tanks. Additionally, It has placed an order for $15 billion of arms from the United States.

Saudi Arabia has also purchased 1.5 billion pounds sterling of arms from Britain, including the purchase of 70 advanced fighters.

Other regional countries are also competing in their arms purchases from the United States and the West, according to news agencies' reports on the purchases. A number of covert orders have been filled as well. In view of all these arms purchases and agreements, should the Islamic Republic be disarmed?!

By proposing its new world order, the United States claims that it intends to lead the world to stability and security.

One of the strategic areas and one of the hotbeds on which the world, especially the United States, has focused its special attention is the Middle East, where the Persian Gulf is a very sensitive and strategic area.

All this is taking place at a time when the Persian Gulf is moving toward stability and tranquility more than ever; when regional countries are moving toward establishing diplomatic and friendly relations with Islamic Iran; when Iraq no longer poses a threat after its attack on Kuwait, world sanctions, and the annihilation of its war machinery—even though it occasionally makes allegations, such as its recent allegation that Kuwait is a part of Iraq in a bid to pave the grounds for more extensive intervention by arrogance in the region—and at a time when the region is approaching political stability and tranquility thanks to Iran's efforts and initiatives. At a time like this we see that a U.S. military commander in the Persian Gulf has proposed the formation of a regional military pact named "GULFO" based on the same pattern as "NATO," which was formed in Europe with U.S. assistance after World War II. He also wants the United States to have the major role in the pact.

He says that the outcome of U.S. presence in the region to date has been encouraging (!) and considers the withdrawal of U.S. forces to be a great mistake. In conclusion, he stresses that the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the region will pave the grounds for Iran's show of strength, adding that the United States will not allow Iran to do so.

By reading these remarks, we can see that the United States considers it in its interests to clash with stability and tranquility in the region and that, contrary to its allegations, it is seeking to create tension and crisis in the region. Regional countries need to be extremely alert so that the United States will not spread tension and crisis in the region for the sake of its interests. They should realize that the responsibility for regional security and stability rests solely on the shoulders of the regional countries themselves and that foreign elements can only create tension, crises, and conflict.

In conclusion, the United States should know that forming a regional military pact, like "GULFO," will not prevent the growth of Islamic tendencies in the region. It should realize that its decade-old attempt to spark war, to hatch political plots, and to create regional, political, and other regional pacts have been in vain.

Once again, we recall the remarks by the esteemed leader of the revolution, who said: "The power of the Islamic system that the United States, the former Soviet Union, and all the big and small powers in the world have been unable and will be unable to confront is the power of the faith of the Hezbollah forces."

Daily on U.S.-Led Intervention in Mideast

NC0308130492 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 27 Jul 92 p 2

[Editorial: "The Ghost of the Bay of Pigs"]

[Text] All the buzzings about an imminent attack against the defiant Iraqi leadership and the posturings of a war-eager America cannot but be connected with the declining popularity in the polls of George Bush.

The "New World Order" proclaimed by the United States leader at the time of the Persian Gulf War is returning to plague him. His people generally understood the phrase to be the triumphant reign of capitalism, peace, and democracy in a world that would henceforth be run the way America says it should be run.

The scenario seemed plausible with the pulverizing of Iraq. Then, there was the demise of communism. But

none of these sells anymore. For instead of the benign order, the world looks more confused than ever and in many ways more violent than when talk of nuclear Armageddon was in fashion. Worse, the declining economic and political power of the U.S. questions American international omnipotence. Saddam retaining power and refusing to bow to the war ceasefire mandates is one concrete manifestation of this.

Another American-led military intervention in the Middle East looms inevitable. Not only is U.S. prestige at stake but with the fast approach of autumn, a besieged George Bush is desperate for a foreign policy victory to erase his image as "whimperingly unable to respond" and assure a second White House tenure.

Secretary of State James Baker's trek back to the region is not coincidental. The "peace-making trip" is presumed by many as actually an attempt to obtain the consensus of the Arab world and ascertain which of the armed countries are willing to toe the American line. There was also the earlier visit of the German foreign minister to Turkey which likewise could have lain the grounds for the possible use of Turkish bases to launch attacks against Baghdad. And as before, the UN would definitely become involved in any intervention to which the U.S. is committed to. The Security Council is slated to meet on Thursday to discuss ways of chastising Saddam and making him comply to American commands.

In 1962, John F. Kennedy risked nuclear war rather than face a failure to win another presidential term. George Bush is now pushing himself to the brink of an armed confrontation despite the fact that massive air strikes failed to topple Saddam Husayn during the recent war and there's no reason to think that limited air attacks would lead to his downfall now.

Thirty years can be a long time. But apparently not long enough to rid the American leadership of the mind set that personal considerations and short-term domestic political conditions are reasons enough to set parts of the world on fire.

Daily Cited on Obstacles Facing Mideast Peace

LD0208101192 Tehran IRNA in English 0612 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—A Tehran daily today said the passage to peace in the Middle East was 'shaky' and accused the United States of seeking hegemony in the strategic oil region behind its so-called peace efforts.

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES in an article also argued that formulating and implementing peace moves in the Middle East was a very difficult task for the following reasons:

1. Israel has its land in the middle of Arab lands and therefore it will always naturally feel insecure on its borders. When Israel's neighbors question its sovereignty under pressure of public opinion on the regimes of the neighboring nations, they will surely have to stand against Israel.

2. Israel, as an aggressive military power in the region is constantly expanding and extending its land and influence. This can very well be seen in the manner in which it is settling Jewish immigrants and expanding its settlements without let up. To do this and have a better and more secure economy are essential to attracting even more Jewish immigrants and when we keep in mind the greed of the Israeli leaders for power, peace becomes only a mirage.

3. The United States has to give a positive answer to the Arab world's demand for more advanced technology, as well as for weapons in order to block the influence of the Western European nations and China with them. Meanwhile the United States has always insisted that Israel's security is as important as its own. Such an attitude can only lead to a balance of horror in this region, ever increasing the chances of war.

4. History is a great teacher and we cannot ignore its lessons. The Iranian regime at the height of its military superiority during the ousted regime's tenure had got far away from its people. This indeed was the dominant factor behind the victory of the Islamic Revolution at a time when it was most unexpected. When we look at Egypt's present situation and its internal affairs in particular and the effort to assign it a role similar to the Shah's, we see this is only a repetition of a former mistake.

5. (U.S. Secretary of State James) Baker during his visit has called on the heads of other countries with interests in the Arab- Israeli conflict to be present at the peace talks, but the question remains as to whether he has been able to appease the wounded feelings of these nations....

Daily Criticizes Western 'Cultural Onslaught'

LD0208095892 Tehran IRNA in English 0638 GMT 2 Aug 92

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial Sunday commented about the cultural onslaught of the West, saying that ethical injections will remain ineffective in the absence of actual examples observed in real life.

"Waking up with cartoons, which even if they are not produced in the U.S., are made on the pattern of Hollywood animations. Going to bed with similar visual stimuli, can our children be expected to find any connection between the type of data with which their minds are being saturated and the type of mystic visions one encounters in Hafiz and Rumi (well-known Iranian poets)?"

The daily argued that under such conditions "could we expect the new generation of artists to produce works of art even in the manner of writers and artists of one or two generations ago?"

Stressing that the originality of an artist is measured by the extent of his ability to recreate in his work of art genuine aspects of his culture, the daily wrote "when we say an artist has to remain faithful to his culture, don't we mean that he should be able to recreate in his work, in an imaginative fashion, those aspects of his daily encounter with reality that are somehow representative of the higher moral truths we teach him orally or through written language?"

Turning to the unique inspiration power of the special culture that developed in the war fronts, the daily wrote that it was because in battlefronts words were coupled with action. "Self-sacrifice in battles was not just a word but an actual daily occurrence."

It wrote that war conditions were not the only way of teaching moral or spiritual truths to the younger generation and that we should clarify "what relations could be established between higher spiritual truths and the daily experiences to which our younger generations are exposed."

"The aim of all such questions is to point out that we need a great deal of clarification before we can reach a more or less workable formula for asserting the originality of our culture and our conceptions of life in the face of the cultural aggression from the West," concluded the daily.

Editorial Says Egypt 'Broker' for Israel

NC0108125592 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 Jul 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Brokering for Zionism!"]

[Excerpts] "Arab countries are prepared to resume peace talks with Israel, led by the newly elected Labor Party," in the month of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September], said Usamah al-Baz, first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of President Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs. In his statement, he tried to project the impression that the outlook for an Arab-Israel compromise seems brighter than ever, adding that the Arabs should try to coordinate their stance.

By making such remarks, al-Baz tried to convey the impression that he is a "spokesman of the Arabs" and is expressing their stance in the peace talks with Israel. This represents exactly what the United States and Israel expect from Cairo. They are hoping that Cairo can motivate the Arabs to enter talks with Israel and shelve those demands that Israel does not favor. [passage omitted on Camp David Accord]

The evidence points to the United States and Israel not rushing to achieve peace. They favor "stalling for time" to debilitate the Arabs so that they may even reduce their already limited demands. The main benefit of this policy for the United States and Israel is that it will gain peace with Israel for less. The United States and Israel, then, are not insisting on the success of the peace talks.

From where does the Cairo regime's apprehension stem? Why is it insisting on resuming the Arab-Israeli talks when it is not even willing to wait for the result of the U.S. presidential election?

The answer to this question lies in the major and unforeseeable developments in Egypt nowadays. Islamic forces' intensifying activities throughout Egypt are sounding the alarm of danger for the Cairo regime.

Cairo fears the Islamic forces' actions making the situation so critical that its own commitments with Israel might also be threatened. The Cairo regime sees its position being weakened and, by acting as a broker for Zionism, it seeks to get others on its side as soon as possible, to mitigate the disgrace of its collusion with Israel in the region. The mark of shame should not just be on the Cairo regime's forehead.

Yesterday's remarks by Yitzhaq Rabin, the Zionist regime's new prime minister, in ceremonies to announce his government's parliamentary program, can be considered a response in line with the Cairo regime's utterances. [passage omitted on Rabin speech]

These remarks are tantamount to a propaganda onslaught against the Arab front in which Israel, by adopting a "peace-seeking" posture, is declaring the new government's willingness and tolerance. In these ceremonies, Rabin again rejected the Arabs' serious demand for the return of the usurped lands and endorsed Shamir's stance in the previous government. Again he has proven that the change of pawns in Israel changes nothing; only the Egyptian regime's brokers aim to inspire hope among the Arabs for the mirage of talks with Israel.

Commentary Against Renewed Mediation on Karabakh

NC0508104992 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Jul 92 p 14

[Unattributed commentary: "Armenia Cannot Be Trusted"]

[Text] During his meeting with the Iranian charge d'affaires, the Armenian president stressed Iran's important role in the region and called for continuing our country's mediation efforts aimed at solving the Karabakh crisis.

Since the beginning of the Karabakh conflict, Iran has exerted extensive efforts to create peace and tranquillity in the region. But due to Armenia's contradictory and unprincipled approaches, these efforts have not yielded results.

Some time ago the Armenian president, who is now calling for continuing mediation efforts, signed an agreement at the Tehran conference to end hostilities and

establish a cease-fire. But the ink had not even dried on the paper when Armenian forces unexpectedly intensified their attacks aimed at occupying part of Karabakh and opening up a corridor for Armenia into Karabakh.

The remarks and wishes expressed by the Armenian president in Tehran about ending the bloody war in Karabakh were extremely encouraging. But other incidents took place, incidents that were not only unjustifiable but also extremely disagreeable and shocking. These incidents even had unfavorable effects on the Muslim Azerbaijani people's approach to its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Islamic Iran tolerated all these problems for the sake of preventing further bloodshed and more extensive damage. But no practical positive reply was received from Armenia.

In view of all this, the question is: On what basis does Armenia expect Iran to continue its efforts? The Republic of Armenia destroyed the basis of trust at a time when Armenian officials are well aware that Iran has not spared any efforts to establish peace and with the knowledge that only goodwill could have solved the problem.

Thus, if Armenia had displayed goodwill and sincerely opted for peace, all the tragic and irreparable incidents that took place would have been averted.

The Armenian Defense Ministry should not be happy with its constant publication of statistics on the number of Azerbaijanis who have been killed, because these people were the Armenians' compatriots yesterday and are their neighbors today. Such an approach only creates further spite and hostility along the borders of the two republics. For two newly established republics that already have so many problems to deal with, this is an extremely heavy toll to pay. As for the reason for continuing these bloody battles, this is a question the officials involved should answer.

It seems that Armenia is trying to impose its wishes through force and violence. But experience has shown that this method cannot yield a positive result. It is illogical for territorial disputes between two newly established republics to cause so much destruction, especially when the two sides had indeed managed to make some progress in their talks.

Moreover, not all of the peaceful methods have been fully exhausted yet, nor have the talks between the two republics yet been proven futile for a military solution to be chosen as the only way to solve disputes.

Armenia's insistence on resorting to violence has removed all grounds for trust. Its statements that it seeks peace cannot be trusted, because incidents have proven the contradiction between Yerevan's promises and actions by the Armenian forces.

At any rate, the record of Armenia's actions vis-a-vis peace-seeking efforts paints an unfavorable picture; thus far there is no clear reason to believe that Armenia is truly interested in ending the war and bloodshed. Therefore, it is no longer logical to expect Iran to resume its mediation efforts.

The Islamic Republic of Iran began its mediation efforts with a great deal of goodwill and hopes the bloodshed and devastation will come to an end. But with its deeds, Armenia has showed that it lacks goodwill and is not faithful to its commitments, which is why it is not and will not be in our interest to repeat the same experience.

Clandestine Radio Details Peshmerga Operations

NC0508112092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] In their courageous operations against the reactionary forces of the clerical regime, peshmergas of the Ageri Force of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran [DPK] laid an ambush for the regime's mercenaries. In heavy battles between the courageous popular force and the reactionary elements, many of the enemy were killed, including three important regime elements.

A series of counterattacks by the enemy forces was thwarted, thanks to the nation's steadfast and courageous selfless children. In these operations, peshmergas confiscated a quantity of arms. [music]

The heroic operations were in memory of martyr Hoseyn Sobhani, official in charge of the party committee in Javanrud. [music]

According to reports from the party committee in northern Kordestan, when the brave Ageri Force peshmergas, carrying out a political-military patrol in Salmas, heard of clashes between party committee cadres in Javanrud and enemy forces and of the martyrdom of one of their dear comrades, Hoseyn Sobhani, they decided to launch operations against the clerical regime's mercenary forces in memory of the brave martyr. They compiled a precise operation plan and chose a road used by the regime's Armed Forces between Sherani Lulek and Darad villages on the Shebhiran-Salmas highway.

The heroic DPK's Ageri Force went to the area on the evening of 28 July and formed groups, each undertaking a special task. The first group of selfless peshmergas and the people took up positions on Lulek Bridge, on heights overlooking the road, on Havar Qasem heights behind the villages of Lower and Upper Lulek, in Sherani and Tamraqa, on the Chelashin Height, and in Keloran and lay in wait.

Another group took up positions around the base in Lower Lulek to start firing at forces inside once the operations started.

The third group lay in wait in heights around the region to thwart any movement by the enemy.

At 1000 on 28 July [date as heard], two enemy Land Cruisers carrying several regime intelligence officials and personnel of the Staff Department of the first brigade of

the Urumiyeh [Islamic Revolution] Guards Corps [IRGC] fell into the Ageri Force partisans' trap and were ordered to halt. When the enemy's forces realized they were in a trap they sped up, thinking they could save their lives. Another group of peshmergas fired on the enemy when they came within a few meters. Within a few minutes their vehicles were destroyed and the passengers killed.

Shortly, the regime's men tried to rush to aid their comrades. But they too fell into the peshmergas' trap and rapidly fled the area. Two died.

In this battle some eight men of the antipopular force were killed, four of whom were identified by the peshmergas as follows:

1. Ya'qub Khodadust, son of Qanbar, from Urumiyeh, revolution guard in charge of the Staff Department of the First Brigade of the Urumiyeh IRGC. He was one of the regime's important elements who served in various parts of Kordestan between 1981-1991 and perpetrated major crimes. This mercenary served the regime in various suppressive institutions such as the Special Brigade of Martyrs and Hamzeh Base and was assigned posts such as commander of the Muhammad Rasul Allah Battalion in Zereh village in Margavar, commander of the (Silvana) Battalion, and commander of the (Akari Sero) Brigade. The mercenary Khodadust had received a written citation from the leader of the criminals, Khamene'i, for the crimes he perpetrated in Kordestan.

2. Hashem Mortazavi, son of Hoseyn, member of the IRGC Intelligence Department in [name indistinct].
3. Jalil Bidar, son of Bahram, from Orumiyeh, member of the Mobilization Corps.
4. Ramin Haqqi, son of Morad, Revolution Guard serving in the Orumiyeh IRGC First Brigade.

The second group of children of the brave people attacking the base in Lower Lulek fired on the base with their medium and light arms. The peshmergas' pitiless and violent fire caught the regime's men by surprise. The peshmergas continued their attacks [words indistinct] for one and a half hours, killing or wounding enemy men and inflicting heavy damages on the base. [Music]

Soon after the successful operation by the democratic braves, the spiteful enemy sent a large force from Salmas to the peshmerga positions, but the peshmergas reacted violently and, after brief clashes, the enemy fearfully fled the scene.

The enemy's antipopular forces that had been defeated on all fronts called for support. Soon a large force was sent from [name indistinct] and (Shebhiran) and staged an extensive attack on peshmerga positions. Fighting broke out on every height in which the peshmergas had taken up positions. This time too the steely morale and effective attacks by the heroes and the followers of the late Qasemlu defeated the large but despicable enemy forces, forced to flee to (Kanikbi, Purik, Abdibak, Cheraneh, and Keloran) villages and to Chelashin base after suffering heavy damages and deaths. In this battle, the peshmergas confiscated a Toyota.

This time the despicable enemy, defeated repeatedly by the courageous peshmergas, reorganized for the umpteenth time and set off with more than 40 vehicles supported by heavy artillery—160-mm guns; 120-mm, 80-mm, and 60-mm mortar launchers; Katyushas; and Dushkas—and embarked on an extensive attack. This time it had to retreat after suffering heavy damages. Three helicopters were sent to the battlefield to thwart the peshmergas' resistance. But this operation also proved futile and the helicopters flew off after their unsuccessful attempts.

After 10 hours the battle ended at 2130 with the complete defeat of the enemy. Some 40 regime men were killed and wounded and heavy material damage was inflicted on the enemy.

As well as the four who were killed in the first battle and who were listed above, the bodies of two other mercenaries were identified by the peshmergas:

1. Nayeb 'Alipur, son of Yusef, from (Aghviran) village in Salmas, who was a jash [Kurdish traitor]. This traitor had been serving the regime for 10 years, participating in several large battles against the peshmerga forces. The treacherous Nayeb was wounded and maimed two years ago in a battle between the peshmerga forces and the enemy. He did not give up his treachery. Recently he became a member of the Intelligence Department in Salmas and headed a spying and intelligence network in the area. The treacherous Nayeb had a long record of harassing people. News of this treacherous hireling's death spread quickly and people in the region rejoiced.

2. The second person killed was one of the commanders of the so- called Salmas Task Force, who was not identified by the peshmergas because his identity card was destroyed. [as heard] [Music]

The booty taken by the Ageri Force peshmergas and by the cocombatants of martyr Hoseyn Sobhani, official in charge of the party committee in Javanrud, in this heroic battle, included:

1. Two Land Cruisers with registration numbers 3114 and 2115;
2. One Toyota [type not stated] with registration number 21174.

All three vehicles were set on fire because it was impossible to transfer them.
3. Four collapsible Kalashnikovs;
4. Two pistols;
5. One piece of wireless equipment;
6. 60 rifle magazines;
7. 400 bullets;
8. and a large quantity of military and intelligence documents.

Part of these operations was filmed by the DPK's film department and will be kept as proof of the courage of the people's children.

Having led to the victory of the invincible peshmerga force, these operations were significant for the region's sensitivity and its being militarized by the enemy, which has set up dozens of bases and several large military centers.

After the operations, the peshmergas who had suffered no losses left the battlefield. At 2230, when they wanted to enter (Aghchaghal) village, they fell into an ambush by regime men. A severe, but brief, battle left the enemy forces tasting the bitterness of defeat with six deaths and wounded. It was too dark for the peshmergas to identify the bodies. The enemy sent an ambulance to gather its dead mercenaries. [music]

The heirs of the blood of the martyrs again displayed their high morale and strength and the enemy realized that victory is not gained by large forces armed to the teeth, but by faith and steely determination and by a precise and organized plan.

Greetings to you, the [words indistinct] of the people's freedom and the heroes of northern Kordestan. Long live your pitiless rage and your effective blows. May you always succeed.

Majles Speaker Urges Fight Against Crime

LD0308180492 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri said in a speech at a gathering of Intelligence Ministry managers: The country's intelligence and information machinery should be the forerunner in crime prevention. While fighting the enemy, it should strive to make a serious and heavy investment in crime prevention and place on its agenda practical ways to accomplish that important task.

He stressed the Majles' readiness to solve the Intelligence Ministry's legal problems and expressed the hope that the legal obstacles in intelligence activities will be removed during the fourth Majles.

Islamic Consultative Assembly Convenes 4 Aug

LD0408114192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] The first open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly convened today after a month's summer recess.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's letter to the Majles speaker was read at this session. In his letter, the president presented Mr. 'Ali Larijani to the Majles for a vote of confidence as the person in charge of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Today's open sesion was chaired by the Majles speaker, who spoke about the recent guidelines of his eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, and stressed the need for greater precision in carrying out and supervising the execution of the principle of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice. He said: The leader of the revolution has, by placing importance on the issue of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice, drawn up the Islamic system's strategy for confronting cultural onsloughts.

The Majles speaker explained: The real aim of our enemies is to separate religion from politics. He added: In order to confront such an onslaught, we have to embark on a revolution of values. We need this revolution in order to prevent the outbreak of great vices.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri thought that major problems include the fact that people are being made despondent. There is corruption among some individuals and some organs, as well as bribery and making the young feel indifferent toward the revolution, its missions and responsibilities. He said: The essential prescription for getting rid of such a danger is to carry out the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice and public supervision.

The Majles speaker also expressed hope that the Majles may be able to exercise more careful supervision over executive organs and use the legal devices at its disposal to prevent major vices. There should also be a project regarding cultural onslaught and the implementation of the principle of the propagation of virture and prohibition of vice, thus giving a positive and practical response to the call of the guardian of the cause [Vali-ye Amr] of Muslims and the esteemed leader.

Majles Holds Open Session 4 Aug, Views Mashhad

LD0408125692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, today's Majles open session discussed and ratified two bills about the cultural, scientific, technical, and educational cooperation accords between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the governments of Zimbabwe and Kenya.

The meeting also discussed and ratified a report by the country's councils and interior affairs commission [as heard] about the need to investigate the [May] incident in the holy city of Mashhad.

The session also ratified the single-urgency of the draft bill about appointing a caretaker for the Islamic City Council [as heard]

Pakistan

New Ambassador to India Named

BK0308085892 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 3 Aug 92 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—A career diplomat, Riaz Khokhar, has been appointed Pakistan's High Commissioner to India. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif approved Khokhar's new assignment on Sunday [2 August].

Khokhar has been serving in the Prime Minister Secretariat as additional secretary for last three years. His selection for the important assignment was made at a time when Pakistan and India have agreed to restart secretary level talks from August 17.

Khokhar is expected to proceed on his new assignment next week. He succeeds ambassador Abdul Sattar who retired last month.

Government Decides To Open Consulate in Bombay

BK2907161492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has decided to open its consulate in Bombay. The consulate is expected to be set up within two or three weeks.

Normalized PRC-India Relations Welcomed

BK2907155192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jul 92

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed the process of normalizing relations between China and India and hoped that the two countries will be able to resolve their border dispute peacefully. A Foreign Office spokesman commenting in Islamabad today on the Indian defense minister's visit to China said that Pakistan feels that it will have a salutary effect on India's policy toward Pakistan and other neighboring nations in South Asia. The spokesman said that Pakistan and China have long been intimate and close friends and our friendship is not only beneficial for the interests of our two countries, but also for regional peace and stability.

Replying to another question, the spokesman said that Pakistan and China have been cooperating for a long time in various fields, including defense, and this cooperation will continue in the future as well.

Mujahidin Group Bars Israelis From Kashmir

BK0508023692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Aug 92

[Text] A powerful group of freedom fighters—the Hizbul Mujahidin—in occupied Kashmir has imposed restrictions on Israelis, saying that the Zionist state is trying to crush their freedom movement. In a statement in Srinagar, the group has directed that any Israeli found in Kashmir should be arrested and handed over to the Hizbul Mujahidin. It has asked its members to examine the travel documents of all foreigners in the occupied valley. The group has also banned the entry of Israeli journalists into occupied Kashmir, saying that India is working in collusion with the Israeli secret agency, Mosad, to crush the freedom movement of the Kashmiris.

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Iran

BK0308143492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Aug 92

[Text] Pakistan and Iran today signed agreements for cooperation in various fields. The agreements were signed by the federal finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, and Iranian minister for road and transport, Mr. Sa'idi-Kia, on conclusion of the three-day joint ministerial commission session in Islamabad today. Under the agreements, the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the fields of banking, trade, petroleum, gas, industries, education, culture, transport, and railways. The two countries also agreed to set up four committees to formulate recommendations to put these agreements into effect.

Iranian Naval Delegation Meets Defense Officials

BK0408150892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Exchange of delegations between Pakistan and Iran could help further expand cooperation between the two countries in various fields. This was stated by the defense minister, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, while talking to the Iranian naval delegation which called on him in Islamabad today. The Iranian delegation is led by the deputy naval commander, Rear Admiral Abbas Mohtaj. During the meeting, the defense minister referred to the recent decision taken at the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] joint ministerial commission for boosting economic interaction between the two countries.

The Iranian naval delegation also visited the joint staff headquarters in Rawalpindi today. They held a meeting with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Shamim Alam Khan. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed.

Minister Invites PDA To Join Sindh Government

BK0508010492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1714 GMT 4 Aug 92

[Text] Karachi, Aug 4 (AFP)—Sindh chief minister, Muzaffar Hussain Shah, Tuesday invited the opposition Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) to join his provincial government, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported.

The embattled chief minister made his offer during a debate in the Sindh assembly, saying, "We want you as a partner in the power as well as the political system of Sindh."

The offer marked the first time that the provincial chief minister, an ally of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, has openly proposed a coalition with the opposition PDA, headed by former premier Benazir Bhutto, who is from Sindh.

Shah said there was no crisis in Sindh and that its present government enjoyed an "overwhelming majority."

The offer follows a split in Shah's ruling coalition after some two dozen deputies from his coalition partner, the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM), resigned in protest against an Army crackdown against criminals and bandits.

The MQM claimed that the operation was targetted against its activists.

The opposition has been pressing for the dismissal of Shah's government claiming that the chief minister had lost his majority in the 109-member assembly.

Shah said that he would be expanding his cabinet this month and many members of the opposition would join the government. He said that anyone who felt that their party had deviated from its basic principles could leave their party and join the government.

PDA Members Said United on Resignation

BK0408125392 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Aug 92 p 1

[By Raja Zulfikar]

[Text] Islamabad—In his rejoinder to the Prime Minister's statement in the House on Monday [3 August], PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance's] Farooq Leghari claimed complete unanimity among his party members over the issue of resignations and announced that none of the alliance leaders would deviate from party discipline.

The Deputy Opposition Leader of the PDA rose a little after the Prime Minister delevered a short impromtu statement. The opposition leader welcomed the presence of the Prime Minister but subjected official policies to scathing criticism. "What prompted the Prime Minister to speak today," Leghari said, "is the fear of PDA resignations. The government is scared of the opposition alliance," he maintained.

He took the points mentioned by the Prime Minister one by one and answered them. Leghari held the government and the Premier responsible for all that ailed the country.

He dispelled the impression that there were differences among the PDA leaders on the issue of resignations. "We understand our party better than anybody and there is no one who would violate party discipline."

Farooq Leghari accused the government of planting in the press a story about a couple of PDA members having disassociated themselves from the PDA on the resignation issue. "This campaign of disinformation is being masterminded by the IB [Intelligence Bureau] Chief." He wanted the government not to be misled and make wrong assessments of the PDA.

Leghri then explained why the PDA talked of resignations. "We believe that the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] has assumed power as a result of rigged elections. They did not deserve to be here because of super rigging, he charged.

The Sandar [Chieftain] from DG [Dera Ghazi] Khan blasted the government with tirades of censure and alleged that it had promoted a political culture in Pakistan that has outraged democracy. The police and bureaucracy have been corrupted, he said.

Farooq Leghari charged that as Punjab Chief Minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif introduced the tradition of horse trading and thus became the trend setter of political buying and selling. He cited the incident of Changa Manga to substantiate his assertion.

Leghari was of the view that on the first day when the assembly met, Benazir Bhutto had talked of reconciliation to save democracy and the constitution. "But the result is that false cases have been contrived against US. Even today, the Prime Minister said that references against the opposition leaders would reach their logical end. And in the same breath you talk of reconciliation."

The Deputy Opposition leader said that the rulers were the product of martial law and beat upon damaging the political process and democratic traditions.

Farooq Leghari clarified that the PDA's stand on the military operation in Sindh was not nebulous. It did not oppose the action but suggested a political and social package without which the issue will remain unsolved. He remarked that the "strings of the Sindh setup" are being pulled from Islamabad.

He demanded withdrawal of Chaudhary Shajact Hussain's words aimed at connecting the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] with AZO [Al Zulfiqar Organization] and claimed a top military spokesman had already said that the party had no link with the organisation. He alleged that murderers and criminals were employed by the Interior Minister to protect his house.

He sounded optimistic that the PDA's public meetings on Aug. 6 and 14 would be a serious blow for the government and pledged to continue the struggle against what he called the tyrannical forces.

Summary Justice Courts in Sindh Discussed

BK2907094992 Islamabad THE NATION in English 29 Jul 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Towards 'summary justice'"]

[Text] A law to provide for the setting up of Special Summary Military Courts in Sindh is said to be on the anvil. And according to the Press reports, the Federal Law Ministry has begun work on its draft which envisages establishment of these courts in every division of the province, along with the existing judicial system, which would be presided over by a Brigadier and also include a Sessions Judge. The Special Mililtary Courts will reportedly try persons arrested by the Army during the course of its operation clean-up. Ostensibly, the measure is being brought about to facilitate 'effective functioning' of the Army deployed in the province to deal with dacoits [robbers], terrorists and anti-social elements of various hues. The Army leadership, since the beginning of the operation in Sindh, has been sending discernible signals about the criminal outfits, particularly in the face of a corrupt and incompetent police apparatus unwilling to go along with it. It was in this context that the Army personnel were given the police powers of search and arrest only a few days earlier. Nevertheless, it seems that a dispensation which was once deemed as giving the Army a carte blanche in Sindh and thus virtually handing over the province to the Army, barring imposition of martial law, is now being followed in piecemeal. And like the proverbial camel who had eventually edged the owner out of his tent, the Army is being allowed, in a phased advance, to assume the authority that it could not have secured at one go.

The establishment of Special Military Courts empowered to hold summary trials, no matter how effective it may be considered to cut the 'anti-social elements' down to size and put the fear of God in the hearts of those who may yet be nourishing designs of sponsoring organised crime, will be seen as pronouncing the demise of the civilian authority in the province. Reminiscent of the martial law days, these courts are likely to ring bells of arbitrariness and denial of proper self-defence—a scenario that scores of victims of authoritarian dispensation had to reckon with. But, above all, the greatest damage will be done to the credibility of the democratic system, since the elected government would be deemed to have admitted failure to oversee a military-led operation, which was initially described as 'calling the Army in aid of civil power', and abdicated the principle of civilian supremacy. Things would not have come to such a pass had Islamabad been a little more mindful of the imperative of backing up the military operation with political measures so urgently needed to give the provincial government a semblance of legitimacy and political authority.

Spokesman Rejects Reports

BK2807144692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Jul 92

[Text] The government is not considering any possibility of going into legislation for constituting special summary military courts to try cases of criminals apprehended as a result of Operation Clean-Up in Sindh province. A spokesman of the Ministry of Law and Justice in Islamabad today, described the news item published in a section of the press in this regard as totally baseless and a figment of imagination. The spokesman clarified that the present structure of speedy trial courts as well as the supreme appellate courts is the only available judicial forum to deal with such cases and no change is being considered either at the provincial or federal level. The spokesman said the government stands committed to the rule of law and the constitution in terms of providing justice to all.

Paper Argues for Keeping Army Out of Politics

BK2807115492 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 28 Jul 92 p 10

[Editorial: "A Role for the Army?"]

[Text] Despite the habit, developed by our politicians because of many years of martial law, of calling upon the army to remove their rivals from power, there is no way anyone can logically or constitutionally justify the participation of the armed forces in the politics of the country. The policy of the current COAS [Chief of Army Staff] of staying clear of politics and abstaining from offering gratuitous comment on foreign policy will help make up our minds about where we wish to keep the army. The situation in Sindh is of politicians' making and the risks that radiate from it should also be laid at the door of our vendetta-ridden political culture. The funny phenomenon of tail-wagging the dog in the operation 'clean-up' is an unfortunate development, but no one should infer from this that the army has to have a constitutional role of any sort in the government of the country.

Any COAS who wants any kind of 'powers,' should realise that our barracks don't produce any standard kind of personality, endowed by Providence with qualities of mind suited for dominance of the political scene. If General Asif Nawaz happens to be a conscientious soldier, he can't ensure that the next man will not be a General Zia, who ruined the country by tinkering with the constitution, or General Beg, who played dirty with the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government in 1990 and let the country down on the Gulf war. The disclosures made about him by federal minister Chaudhri Nisar Ali and General (Retd) Alam Jan Mahsud indicate that what the country really needs is a political consensus on keeping the army out of politics. Having said this, it should also be understood that the civilian government should eschew playing around with the army through the mechanism of postings and transfers, interpreted by the

GHQ [General Headquarters] as a trespass in its domain. All politicians should declare their intent of not publishing statements, calling upon the army to stage a coup or intervene in their feuds. There should be some kind of code of conduct about political leaders paying visits to the generals. On the other hand, the generals should recall the crush our politicians formed at the door of corps commander, Multan in 1990 and undertake to spurn all efforts made by leaders who can't pull their own chestnuts from the fire to embroil them in dirty politics. Army's interference or martial law has done a lot of harm to Pakistan in the past. This tradition must be abandoned, simply because this country cannot take any more adventure. If Pakistan has to retain some self-respect and honour in the eyes of the world, it must revert to democracy; and if there is an iota of army control over our politics, this honour cannot be redeemed. Retired generals must also bend their minds to this national concern and stop retailing their half-baked reductionist revolutionary theories in the press to spare the common man the confusion that harms the political process in the country.